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## Portfolio

### £42,000 to be won

There is £42,000 to be won in *The Times* Portfolio competition today - the weekly prize of £40,000 plus the £2,000 daily prize. Yesterday's £2,000 prizewinner was Mr J. H. Woodhouse, of Ealing, W13. Portfolio list, page 22; prize changes, back page Information Service.

### Exports hit record £6.54 bn

The pound rallied to \$1.735 with exports reaching a record £6.45 billion last month. Britain's current account surplus totalled £278 million, with the trade deficit dropping to £122 million from October's £888 million. Trade in manufactured goods returned to surplus, reflecting an overall rise of 15 per cent in exports to the US. Page 19

### Miners' cash unfrozen

The National Union of Mineworkers has won back partial control of the £2.7 million it moved to the Irish Republic, after a Dublin court ruled that the assets should be unfrozen. Page 2

### Maxwell helps out Southend

Robert Maxwell, the Oxford United chairman, and Ken Bates, his Chelsea counterpart, have loaned Southend United, the financially troubled fourth division club, £70,000 to spare them bankruptcy proceedings. Page 24



### £700m error

The Government has admitted a £700 million error in its published council grant figures. Page 2

### Air fare cuts

The US and British governments have formally agreed to approve winter transatlantic air fare cuts, the State Department announced.

### Drought ends

The drought that has devastated much of Southern Africa north of the Limpopo for the past three years has ended. Page 6

### Early sale

Britain's Royal Ordnance factories are to be privatized on January 2, more than a year earlier than expected, the Government announced yesterday. The previous likely date for privatization of the 13 factories was mid-1986.

### Ford arbitration

Ford management has agreed to arbitration by an independent job evaluation panel in the five-week strike by 270 women sewing machinists that has crippled car production.

### Liverpool win

Liverpool moved up to fifth place in the first division, their highest position this season, by winning 2-0 at Queen's Park Rangers last night.

### Captain wanted

Wales needs a new rugby union captain quickly, after the resignation of Watkins on Thursday. Holms is the favourite, with Ackerman the outsider. Page 24

Leader Page 9

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## Power shift in Politburo after death of Ustinov

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Marshal Dmitry Ustinov, the Soviet Defence Minister and a powerful influence in the Kremlin, has died at the age of 76. The last night ended months of speculation by announcing that he had died on Thursday "after a grave illness". It did not elaborate.

The Kremlin announcement, released on Tass and read on Moscow television, said the leadership had learned "with deep sorrow" of the death of "an outstanding figure". An obituary signed by President Chernenko said Marshal Ustinov had led a "vivid, glorious life", and had held senior posts in the economy and defence industries.

It praised his role as wartime armaments Minister, adding that he had "made a considerable contribution to developing rocketry and exploring outer space".



Marshal Ustinov, figure of power in Kremlin.

Marshal Ustinov, Defence Minister for the past eight years, had "firmly and unswervingly implemented" Soviet defence policy, and had "greatly contributed to raising the combat-readiness of the Army and Navy".

The news was announced first by Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Kremlin number one, who cut short his visit to Britain by a day to return to Moscow. He arrived in Moscow yesterday, describing Marshal Ustinov's death, before leaving, as "a great and tragic loss".

The first indication that Marshal Ustinov had died came when the Soviet authorities

announced a recess in the World Chess Championship at the Hall of Columns, near Red Square, traditionally used for the lying in state of senior Kremlin leaders.

Officials at the building confirmed that Marshal Ustinov had died, but gave no cause of death. Sources said the lying in state would take place this weekend, with a ceremonial Red Square funeral on Monday.

A medical bulletin said he had died of a heart attack after liver and kidney failure arising from pneumonia, which he contracted in late October.

### The implications

Obituary 10

The Marshal had not been seen in public since the end of September, when he presented medals to President Chernenko. Alarm rose on November 7 when Marshal Ustinov failed to attend the military parade marking the anniversary of the Revolution. The parade was reviewed instead by Marshal Sergei Sokolov, one of Marshal Ustinov's first deputies, who is 73.

The other two are Marshal Sergei Akhromyev, the new Chief of Staff, and Marshal Viktor Kulikov, 63, commander-in-chief of the Warsaw Pact.

Marshal Sokolov, Marshal Akhromyev and General Viktor Chibrikov of the KGB are to serve on the funeral commission, but not Marshal Kulikov.

Tass said the funeral commission was headed by Mr Grigory Romanov, aged 61, a Politburo member, indicating that he may succeed Marshal Ustinov rather than one of the marshal's deputies, all of whom are professional military men.

There was speculation over whether the Kremlin would appoint a military figure such as Marshal Sokolov as Defence Minister. Marshal Ustinov was a party official by origin, and thus the first civilian to head the armed forces since Trotsky.

Continued on back page, col 6



Lord and Lady Spencer with Mrs Shand-Kydd (far right) leaving St George's Chapel yesterday.

## Prince Henry christened in style

By Tony Samstag

Prince Henry Charles Albert David was christened in St George's Chapel at Windsor, yesterday.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, performed the ceremony at the gilded lily font used since Victorian days, while the three-month-old infant, dressed in the traditional Honiton lace robes used by generations of Royal babies, cried only once during the 20-minute service.

Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips alone among the Royal Family did not attend the service, although their two children, Master Peter and Miss Zara Phillips, were present.

Buckingham Palace described the couple's absence as unfortunate.

It was because of "a long-standing private engagement that had been fixed far in advance of the christening," a spokesman added. Princess Anne and Captain Phillips were due to attend the traditional Christmas party at Windsor later.

They spent much of the day shooting with Captain Phillips' father, Major Peter Phillips, and returned to their home at Gatcombe Park, Gloucestershire, late in the afternoon with "a good bag" of rabbits, the Palace said.

Prince Henry's brother, Prince William, aged 2½,

attended the service, which a chorister described as "a quiet family affair, a very moving and charming service".

Prince Henry had cried only "for two or three minutes while the Archbishop was blessing the holy water". "He was quiet as a mouse throughout the rest of the baptism."

A nursery had been set up at the castle overnight under the supervision of Miss Barbara Barnes. The Princess of Wales was the first to arrive in the morning, with the Prince of Wales, driving his Jaguar, close behind, just ahead of Princess Margaret and Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones. The Queen, Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Andrew, Prince Edward

and the Queen Mother arrived in a conveyer.

Prince Andrew and Lady Sarah were chosen as Royal godparents. Prince Henry's other godparents are Mr Brian Organ, the royal portrait painter Mrs Carolyn Bartholomew, a former flatmate of the Princess of Wales; Lady Vestey and Mr Gerald Ward, a long-standing friend of the Prince of Wales.

The Princess of Wales's family attended in force: Lord Spencer, her father, and his wife Lady Spencer; the Hon Mrs Shand-Kydd, her mother; Lord Althorpe, her brother, and Lady Sarah McCordingle and Lady Jane Fellowes, her sisters.

## Debate on GLC abolition Bill to be guillotined after 80 hours

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The Government is to risk another parliamentary storm by cutting short debate on its chief measure of the session, the Local Government Bill, at the earliest feasible date.

The Cabinet has decided that a guillotine should be imposed early in February, within a month of the return of MPs from their Christmas recess, which began yesterday.

Ministers are deeply concerned at the likelihood of long delays in the House of Lords to the Bill, which is to abolish the Greater London Council and the metropolitan councils and distribute their functions among other authorities.

To give the Lords as much time as they will require, the Bill must complete its passage through the Commons by the beginning of April.

The intention is to resort to the guillotine after 80 hours of line-by-line discussion of the Bill in standing committee. Opposition MPs on the committee will be angry at what they will see as a breach in a convention which requires a minimum of 120 hours of discussion over six weeks before an important Bill is guillotined.

Eighty hours, they argue, is

normal only for a short measure such as the Rates Bill enacted in the last parliamentary session, which had 19 clauses. The Local Government Bill has 98 clauses, and 17 schedules which more than double its length.

The Government's plans will be challenged as soon as the committee reconvenes on January 10. The Opposition has agreed to sit twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

### Winter of discontent

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and will find that the sessions will sit regularly until after midnight so that the 80-hour tally is reached by February 5.

The 15 Labour and three Alliance MPs will not shake the Government's majority of 11 on the unusually large 47-member committee. But the Government can expect a renewed outbreak of hostility from Conservative critics of the Bill when it asks the approval of the whole House for the guillotine motion.

The Government's exceptional forcing of the pace may aggravate the difficulty it is designed to resolve. The proposal is that the guillotine, or

timetable, if imposed early, will allow generous time for each part of the Bill to be debated.

But in practice the guillotine process, which destroys any willingness to co-operate, always leaves many clauses undiscussed. The Lords, on past practice, will think it their duty to pay special attention to the undiscussed clauses, so tending to take up all the time that the Government hopes to save.

At the same time, the rules of procedure in the Lords do not allow for timetable, and the Government whips have few sanctions to compel Conservative peers to attend and vote.

The rare if not unprecedented decision a week ago to keelhaul Lord Alport for desertion was seen by peers in all parties as proof of both ferocity and impotence in the leader of the Lords, Lord Hailsham, and the government chief whip, Lord Denham.

Ministers maintain in public that they do not expect to be forced to concede important amendments to the Bill. In private they believe that they may have to give way and allow some continuing all-Party authority, possibly indirectly elected, to remain in place.

Continued on back page, col 1

## Appeal to Lords on pill ruling

By David Nicholson-Lord

The Government is to appeal to the House of Lords against the Court of Appeal ruling banning the prescription of contraceptives to girls under 16 without their parents' consent, but in the meantime is suspending its guidance on contraception and abortion advice for young people.

The decisions were announced yesterday as criticisms mounted of the ruling on the six-year campaign by Mrs Victoria Gillick, the Roman Catholic mother of 10 from Wisbech, Cambridgeshire.

In response to "dozens" of telephone calls from worried doctors, the BMA yesterday issued its own guidance in an attempt to clear up the meaning of "emergency" - exceptional circumstances which would, according to the Court of

Appeal, allow doctors to ignore the requirement to consult parents.

The BMA said that the judgment did not suggest that a doctor who prescribed the pill for a girl under 16 to safeguard her health without telling her parents, would be guilty of an offence.

Its concern was with problem families where uncaring parents had thrown a girl aged 15 out of the house, and children were sexually abused. Doctors would have to weigh possible damage to the patient through pregnancy, with risk of action by parents "who have already shown their lack of care for the girl".

The association, which yesterday forecast more unwanted pregnancies and a return to backstreet abortions as a result of girls under 16 no longer

seeing their doctors for advice, insisted that only in a "very few cases" were girls unlikely to involve parents. Doctors persuaded the great majority to get their parents' consent.

The Government's decision to appeal was announced by Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister of State for Health, who said that the ruling had very wide implications and the law needed to be clarified quickly. The DHSS guidance would be reviewed once the outcome of the appeal was known.

The Children's Legal Centre, a national organization dealing with laws and policies affecting young people, yesterday described the Court of Appeal judgment as "appalling", which the Royal College of Nursing said it "regretted" the decision.

Continued on back page, col 3



Scottish welcome: Mr Mikhail Gorbachev receiving a gift of shortbread from Andrew Campbell, a castle warden, during his visit to Holyrood Castle, Edinburgh, yesterday.

## Gorbachov leaves early

From Ronald Faux, Edinburgh

Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the senior Politburo member, cut short his visit to Britain yesterday as news came from Moscow of the death of Marshal Dmitry Ustinov, the Soviet Defence Minister.

Mr Gorbachov had arrived in Scotland when his plans were dramatically changed. He told reporters at Edinburgh airport that he and his delegation had been recalled to Moscow.

Marshal Ustinov, "our old friend and comrade at arms",

had passed away. That was indeed a great and tragic loss, he said. Mr Gorbachov was to have left Scotland for the Soviet Union later today.

A banquet at Edinburgh Castle went ahead without the Soviet delegation. Instead, residents of an Edinburgh old people's home were invited to enjoy the occasion and the food in the King's Hall of the castle.

Gorbachov bids links, page 4

Leading article, page 9

## Christmas choice highlights the North-South divide

By Staff Reporters

Britons are treating themselves to the good life at Christmas this year, either flying abroad for skiing holidays or drinking champagne at home.

Thousands of enthusiasts have had a disappointing arrival at the ski resorts of Europe, many of which are still green when they should be white with snow.

The main anti-climax for many is that they are unable to ski down the slopes back to the village settlements. Instead they have to make the descent by cable car, the same way they ascended.

Tour operators and tourists boards acknowledged the temporary crisis, but insist that

some Christmas Eve there should be a heavier snowfall. It is chiefly in the low altitude areas where there is a dearth of snow.

The Austrian Tourist Board admitted that many valleys, especially in the Tyrol, were more verdant than they should be, but said that the valley glaciers were good for skiing.

"This year the problem has been particularly bad, but it is changing," it said. In many resorts where there were only 20 centimeters of snow in the valleys, there are as much as 130 centimeters on the summits.

In Switzerland much of the snowfall is "powdery" and unlikely to withstand skiers

unless mechanically compacted.

Even so, thousands of skiers are still flying out. Tour operators have reported few cancellations as a result of the unseasonal weather.

The number of flights to hotter climes is also up, with most passengers taking holidays in the Mediterranean sun spots, and the Caribbean.

In Britain, southerners have been enjoying a Christmas spending spree, but northerners have had to stint. That is largely attributed to the miners' strike. While Parisians and Massons have been selling Christmas hampers at £600 each to Londoners, stores in Doncaster have been having a "drastic time".

One department store is said to have been losing £1.4 million a week, over the Christmas period because of the loss of miners' salaries among the takings.

Countrywide, sales of table wines have gone up by about 30 per cent on last year, and champagne is the biggest seller among the sparkling wines, in spite of the £1 increase on each since last year.

The wine sales boom and the rush for champagne was reported by Victoria Wine, part of Allied Lyons and the biggest off-licence business in the country with more than 800 outlets.

Champagne sales are a little behind those of last Christmas but it is still outstripping any

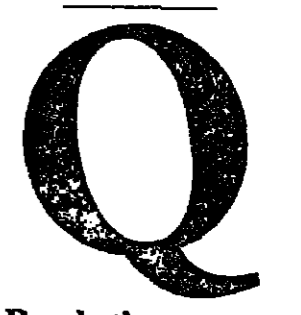
other type of sparkling wine, Victoria Wine said. The chain has Moët and Chandon on sale at the promotional price of £8.69.

Waitrose, the supermarkets chain which is part of the John Lewis Partnership, said: "People are buying our own-label champagne by the case. That way it works out at £5.70 a bottle. No sooner are the shelves filled then they are emptied again."

The wine sales boom has been building up since the last Budget favoured wines on taxation and reduced prices.

The Post Office has carried more mail than it did last year this Christmas. As may be 105.4 million letters and cards were posted on Monday

## THE TIMES Inside

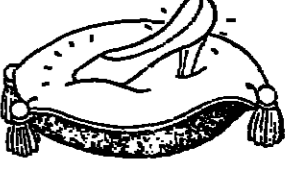


Puzzle time  
£725 to be won in the Quiz of the Year and Jumbo Crossword



The perfect party  
How to survive the merry-making

TV choice  
Full guide to the holiday films, plus video choice



Boos and cheers  
A critical eye on the Christmas productions and pantomimes

## Monday

Quote, unquote  
Who said what to whom in 1984... and why



The Body Quiz  
A holiday game in two parts - hard and harder

THE FAMOUS GROUSE  
FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY  
It's more than just the price that sets it apart.  
Quality and character.

# NUM gets some control of assets to fight sequestration

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

National Union of Mineworkers' leaders won back yesterday partial control of £2.7 million of assets moved to a Dublin bank to prevent the sequestration of the union funds.

The High Court in London has granted an order to unfreeze some of the money so that the union could continue a legal battle to regain control of all its £8 million assets.

News of the Dublin decision came as the National Coal Board announced that 11 men abandoned the 41-week-old strike yesterday, bringing the total during the past five days to 174. In all, 16,868 men have returned since the board began a determined "back to work" campaign on November 1: 64 per cent of the union's 189,000 members are on strike.

That falls short of the board's target of getting a majority of men back to work by Christmas. It is now putting the finishing touches to fresh plans to woo more men back in the new year.

The union's success in Dublin was revealed yesterday by Mr Howard Page, counsel for the sequestrators, in the High Court.

He told Mr Justice Nicholls it was a most astonishing decision, which effectively gave the union access to funds

## Miners in assault case lose their jobs

Four North Staffordshire miners cleared of assault were told by the NCB yesterday that they will not get their jobs back.

The men were dismissed in September after being arrested outside Hem Heath colliery at Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent, and charged with assault causing actual bodily harm. They all denied the charge.

Mr David Wemyss, Mr Stan Edwards, Mr Brian McKean and Mr Keith Bolton had their case dismissed at Stoke-on-Trent court when the prosecution offered no evidence after they all agreed to be bound over for 12 months in the sum of £50.

● Toys worth more than £10,000 given from all parts of the UK and abroad will be handed over to the families of striking Nottinghamshire miners today, Nottingham women's miners support group said the response had been "unbelievable".

● Paul Weller, the pop singer, has given £2,000 on behalf of his group, The Style Council, to the Miners' Families Christmas Appeal. Some £100,000 was raised in the past week after Mrs Glenys Kinnoch, wife of the Labour leader, called for last-minute donations.

● Customs officials have interrupted a big haul of 17,000 striking miners in north-east England. Lorryloads of chickens and turkeys from France were due to arrive yesterday at Manton miners' welfare hall, Co Durham, for distribution. An NUM spokesman said officials at Dover considered the lorryloads to be overweight but clearance had now been given.

● A miners' support group is reporting a Conservative council to the ombudsman after the authority refused permission for door-to-door collections. Dover council refused the permission because it feared names and addresses of those not donating would be compiled.

● Ukrainian coal miners have given about £114,000 to a relief fund for striking miners, the Soviet news agency, Tass, said yesterday. The fund was set up by the Soviet miners' union in Cumbria, in South Yorkshire, have been charged in Lincoln with the theft of coal from the British Sugar Corporation factory in Bardney, Lincolnshire.

● More than two tonnes of toys for striking miners' children in Ayrshire were ferried from Northern Ireland on board a small fishing boat last night, together with large quantities of food given in Belfast.

● Police and working miners were greeted by pickets singing carols and wearing party hats at two South Wales pits yesterday. NUM officials dressed up as Santa Claus and reindeer to serenade the 27 men going in to work at the Celynen South colliery in Gwent, scene of the worst picket line clashes in the coalfield. Toy plastic pigs were offered as presents to the 110 police on duty but none was accepted.

Photograph, page 3

## BR's hard-line on moving coal trains

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

British Rail managers who are becoming increasingly alarmed at losses, now running at £200 million, caused by the miners' strike, have given a warning that they intend to take a new hard line against workers refusing to take out coal trains.

An emergency meeting to be held next month when management will lay out the precise impact of loss of traffic to road haulage, and the implications which will involve a cutback in investment for few locomotives and could lead to redundancies.

Union leaders recognize the difficulties caused, but are likely to resist any move to introduce disciplinary measures in an attempt to get coal moving again. BR estimates that £50 million of the freight losses can be directly attributed to railway workers obeying instructions not to take out coal trains.

If the pit strike goes into the spring total losses will amount to £250 million by April, destroying BR's hopes of breaking even this year.

Mr Henry Sanderson, direc-

## Rich and poor in Silicon Glen

By Paul Valleley

Just outside the Scottish new town of Glenrothes stand two large concrete blocks. Close to them are half-finished multi-storey car parks, but from a distance they stand like the graves of the region's declining coal industry.

They are the pit towers of Rother colliery into which the National Coal Board poured £20 million during the late 1950s and early 1960s before this great white hope of the Fire coalfield turned into its great white elephant.

They are made of pre-tensioned concrete. Like so many other coal industry institutions, their demolition could be highly dangerous.

The new town was built to house the workers of the colliery. But because of unforeseen geological problems it never produced an ounce of coal.

Today, Glenrothes lies at the heart of "Silicon Glen", the microtechnology industry which has brought 26 new companies and £318 million of multi-national investment to the town in the past five years.

The region's 6,000 miners

compare with 9,000 men and women working in electronics.

The workers of the burgeoning and declining industries live side by side in towns and villages near by, such as Lochgelly. Christmas and new year offer very different prospects to the two groups.

Yesterday, the Lochgelly National Union of Mineworkers' strike centre served the final hot midday meal before the holiday. On Thursday, 200 strikers queued, silent and unsmiling, to collect a plastic carrier bag of groceries which, along with a Christmas chicken donated by a local union, will have to tide them over until the soup kitchen reopens.

"It will be a pretty dismal Christmas for most of the miners," said Mr Johnny Bell, an electrician from the Castlehill pit, who was doling out two tattered £1 notes to each striker with children for stocking fillers.

"I won't buy much, but I've already got some presents for my kids," Mrs Shonagh Corrigan said. "I cashed in my insurance policies and that gave me enough to buy some presents and pay some bills."

There is no doubt that people here are fed up with the strike. But their resolution to carry on with it is as strong as ever, perhaps stronger, for they have already lost too much to admit defeat now. They have gone through the pain barrier. Most of them are quite prepared to go on until next year.

"There is no doubt that people here are fed up with the strike. But their resolution to carry on with it is as strong as ever, perhaps stronger, for they have already lost too much to admit defeat now. They have gone through the pain barrier. Most of them are quite prepared to go on until next year."

West Marcia Police have said that they believed the murder occurred during a criminal burglary, but yesterday a spokesman said there had not been any pattern of burglaries in the area at the time of Miss Murrell's death, nor any other burglary which matched incidents at her home.

The spokesman said that the only item known to be missing was £50 in cash, withdrawn from the bank by Miss Murrell on the day she died. No sign of forced entry had been found, and this led police to believe the assailant followed the woman into her home, or used a rear entrance which she sometimes left unsecured.



Sheep: On the Craigdarroch estate, Moniaive, in Dumfries and Galloway sheep have a privileged winter ahead of them. They have been fitted with winter coats by their owner Mr Alex Sykes, above who claims it could be the start of a farming revolution.

Mr Sykes brought 500 of the synthetic polypropylene fabric coats from Australia, where they are widely used, last September. He has fitted out 100 of his flock already.

"The British Wool Marketing Council has asked me to try to encourage other farmers to adopt the same practice," Mr Sykes said. "For the coats not only keep the sheep clean, they also keep them warm, which means they eat less."

It is not the first time British sheep have been well dressed: the Romans introduced coats of jute or linen. (Photograph: Robin Bryden).

## Suspect's beating charge

A man arrested last Monday after a terrorist landmine explosion and the shooting death of his companion by the police alleged yesterday that the Royal Ulster Constabulary tried to beat him to death.

He was giving evidence during the court appearance at Armagh of Aidan Greig, aged 28, formerly of Armagh, who has been living across the border in Dundalk.

Greig is accused of the attempted murder of seven Ulster Defence Regiment members, causing an explosion and possessing two automatic pistols. He was arrested after a RUC patrol shot dead John McIlvenna, 33, a senior Provisional IRA man and a long-time fugitive, moments after a landmine had been detonated underneath a UDR mobile patrol.

Greig was remained in custody yesterday.

After a four-day search the RUC yesterday dragged from a small river near the border in Co Fermanagh the body of a man, who is expected to be identified today as the Maze prison escapee and IRA cross-border raider Kieran Gerard Fleming.

Police in Dublin have confirmed a report that the Provisional IRA is now believed to have the capability to manufacture a powerful and stable military explosive, RDX, which is more powerful than commercial gelignite and home-made mixtures.

Claran McMurrow, aged 34, once the most wanted terrorist suspect in Britain and still on Scotland Yard's "wanted" list, is being released early from jail by the Irish Government today.



Lord Justice Eveleigh: 40 years in the law.

## £700m aid error in council grant report

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

The Government admitted yesterday that state grant available to councils had accidentally been inflated by almost £700 million in an official report.

It was the latest of several embarrassments that have dogged Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, during the annual ritual of erecting a financial framework in which local government can operate next year.

The report said that councils were entitled to almost £8,962 million next year instead of the £8,263 million which they could actually claim.

The mistake came only a few days after another part of Mr Jenkin's municipal policy was condemned as "woodoo economics" by Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, Conservative MP for Birmingham, Selly Oak.

Mr John Cunningham, chief Opposition spokesman on local government, said that the mistake in the report was "a further blunder" by Patrick Jenkin and "yet more evidence of the shambles in the Department of the Environment".

Department staff tried to play down the incident, saying first that there had been "misprints" and later "an incorrect calculation at the drafting stage". But the department clearly took a serious view because after consulting lawyers it hastily withdrew the first version of the report and quietly laid a corrected one before Parliament.

The legal status of the incorrect document might have left ministers open to court action from councils to claim a

## Steelworks may lose 800 jobs

The British Steel Corporation is likely to shed 800 jobs in the new year, union leaders at the works have been told.

The plant, which employs 600, is already taking a three-week Christmas break because of lack of orders. Now union leaders have been told that the Corporation hopes to replace it with a modern mill employing far fewer people.

The Corporation has said that the new mill would be a partnership between BSC and a private steelmaker. The present mill is unable to handle demand for thin plates.

BSC is also to impose a deadline for the loss of 200 jobs contained in a previous agreement not yet implemented.

The Scunthorpe works at present employs 6,800, compared with 22,000 six years ago. It is losing £1.25 million a week as a result of the miners' strike.

It is having to obtain its coal requirement of 40,000 tons a week from wharves on the Trent, and lorry convoys are bringing iron ore from the bulk terminal at Immingham, after a blacking in support of the miners imposed by the train drivers' union ASLEF, six months ago.

In line with a national agreement, 2,300 Scunthorpe craft workers have been offered a rise of 3.25 per cent from the new year, plus a further 2 per cent if they sign a local productivity agreement.

Leaders of the craft unions are angry that the Corporation has refused to show them full details of the agreement before January 16.

## Witty judge retires from 'madhouse'

Lord Justice Eveleigh, aged 67, who retired yesterday after 16 years as a judge, told a crowded Court of Appeal of the day when his ego was "well and truly deflated" soon after being appointed to the High Court.

"A woman burst through the court door, looked at me and shouted: 'You are a blithering idiot'. It was hardly fair because I was only just 50."

"I was about to ask her how she knew when the usher turned to me and said: 'Keep quiet! I thought I was in a madhouse and wondered who was in charge.'"

Lord Justice Eveleigh said that the usher went to the woman and stared at her and she backed slowly through the door.

The usher told him later: "I do apologise my Lord, but if you had opened your mouth all hell would have broken loose."

"This was just one of the many occasions I have been grateful to the ushers in this building."

Lord Justice Eveleigh, noted as one of the legal world's most witty after-dinner speakers, had his retirement noted in the official Court List yesterday in a

rare piece of dry legal humour as "in re Lord Justice Eveleigh Ex parte the Court of Appeal."

Tributes to Lord Justice's 40 years in the legal profession were made by the Solicitor General, Sir Patrick Mayhew, and Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls.

Lord Justice Eveleigh, who became a Court of Appeal judge in 1977, was one of the three judges who ruled on Thursday that doctors must not prescribe the contraceptive pill to girls under 16 without their parents' consent.

## MP attacks guidelines to Special Branch

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Home Office guidelines on the Special Branch were criticized yesterday by Mr John Prescott, Labour employment spokesman as a threat to trade unionists.

In a letter to Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, he demands a definition of "subversive," saying that some government ministers judge, and treat trade unionists as "the enemy within."

Mr Prescott's letter coincides with mounting anger among Labour MPs who see the guidelines as confirmation that the Special Branch spies on pickets and organizations in Britain.

A Home Office statement says one of the Special Branch's main jobs is to "gather information about threats to public order."

Such information would enable it to assess whether marches, demonstration and pickets posed any threat to public order.

The guidelines point out that the Special Branch assists the security service in "defending the realm against attempts at espionage or sabotage or from the actions of persons and organizations which may be judged subversive to the state."

Mr Prescott asked Mr Brittan whether the Home Office

## Architects 'earn less than other professions'

By Charles Knevit, Architecture Correspondent

Architects earn less than people in other professions, such as medicine and accountancy, according to a survey by Mr Dave Leggett, economic research officer of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Lifetime earnings (that is, over a 35-year period) for architects in the private sector were estimated in 1980-81 at just under £340,000 while hospital consultants earned more than £616,000.

Private architects earned 55 per cent of what a consultant

would get, and 60 per cent of a general practitioner's income. Figures for 1983 showed architects behind electrical, civil, mechanical and structural engineers, although they still think of themselves as "leaders of the building team."

**LIFETIME EARNINGS**

Hospital consultant 2618,140  
General practitioner 2588,000  
Chartered accountant 2582,735  
General dental practitioner 2587,560  
Personal manager 2443,990  
Architect (private) 2338,715  
Architect (public) 2338,885

Mr Edward Heath is to team up with Mr Andrew Lloyd Webber, the composer, to raise money for children's homes.

The former prime minister is to conduct part of a new work by the composer of *Elysia* at a carol concert on Sunday.

Sarah Brightman, the singer and wife of Mr Lloyd Webber, will take a solo part in a section of her husband's *Requiem Mass* for *Pia Jeau*.

The concert is at Broadstairs, Kent.

## Police report on Murrell death for Home Office

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

A report on investigations into the death of Miss Hilda Murrell, alleged this week to have been killed by blundering British intelligence officers, is on its way to the Home Office, a spokesman for West Mercia Police said yesterday.

The allegation was made in the Commons on Thursday by Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, who claimed that Miss Murrell, aged 78, died after interrupting a search for official material relating to the sinking of the Argentine cruiser General Belgrano.

Miss Murrell, the aunt of Commander Robert Green, a senior naval officer who held a day position in naval intelligence during the Falklands War, was also a strong anti-nuclear campaigner.

Her body was found last March about six miles from her home, which showed the signs

## Rail disruption for weeks after tunnel fire

Rail services between Manchester and Bradford are likely to be disrupted for weeks as a result of a fire in the Summit tunnel under the Pennines.

The two-mile tunnel is blocked by the charred remains of the fuel tanker train which burned until lunchtime yesterday, and British Rail said: "It will probably be after Christmas before we start shifting the wreckage. Nothing definite will happen until the new year as far as alternative services are concerned."

Buses will continue to carry passengers between Rochdale and Todmorden until alternative routes are in operation.

Greater Manchester fire service said: "The fire was put out at lunchtime yesterday. First reports indicated that the tunnel structure was sound after the fire. Fifty families moved out during the alert have returned home."

## Big holiday shutdown for British industry

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Britain's manufacturing industry closed down last night for a holiday of at least 11 days, but many employers will expect workers to return to a new year of increased productivity and competitiveness.

With the economic recovery showing distinct signs of patchiness, and manufacturers still unsure of the strength of domestic markets, the Confederation of British Industry has recently been conspicuous for its lack of prospects.

While the CBI is still predicting a growth in the gross domestic product next year of more than 1 per cent on the 1984 figure, the miners' dispute is casting a deep shadow over industry and many business leaders fear the conflict will have long-lasting effects on the nation's confidence.

CBI leaders are certain to start 1985 by reiterating their call for greater investment in the nation's infrastructure: roads, railways, sewers and bridges - and by emphasizing to the government their concern that industrial investment is likely to fall because of taxation policies.

One of the main elements in the CBI's Budget representations, to be unveiled at the end of January, is criticism of the changes in capital allowances which, it will say, will cause an investment famine in 1986 and do nothing to reduce unemployment.

According to the results of the CBI's December industrial trends survey, which covered more than 1,500 manufacturing companies, 30 per cent expect their output to go up in the first four months of 1985, 12 per cent expect a decline, while most (58 per cent) said production would remain at present levels.

Few companies are having extended holidays over the Christmas period, and the time off is being deducted from employees' annual leave entitlements. However, most manufacturers, particularly those in the process industries, consider it too expensive to open their factories for only one or two days at a time.

The building industry, affected by the seasonal factors of short days and poor weather, will have the longest holiday. Civil engineering companies are expected to stay closed until at least January 6.

Most other companies will not open for business until January 12, although some, such as the glass container industry, will continue working until Christmas Eve. Most of the retail and commercial sector will be open for business next Thursday and Friday.

## £93m grant by EEC to create jobs

From Ian Murray, Brussels

The unemployed from three of Britain's most depressed industries are to be given £93 million by the European Community for job creation schemes.

The Community's regional fund yesterday allocated £93 million to help create jobs in textile closure areas in West Yorkshire, Lancashire and Greater Manchester. A further £20 million goes to the run-down steel areas of Scotland, the north of England and South Wales. The remaining £10 million is earmarked for shipbuilding workers on the Clyde, Tyne and Mersey.

The money is meant to be spent on helping new small companies to set up in business. Some of it is to go on consultancy services and for risk capital.

The grants are on top of normal aid from the regional and social funds, and will help to finance five-year government programmes.

The funds will be divided between investments in old and disused buildings, and software.

## Eton appoints RC chaplain

Father Peter Knott, father superior of the Farm Street Jesuit Church in London, is the new Roman Catholic chaplain to Eton College. His appointment will be on a part-time basis.

A college spokesman yesterday denied that Father Knott could be the first permanent Catholic chaplain at Eton since the Reformation. "He will be based in the local parish of Farnham Royal and may occasionally stay overnight."

## Dearest smoking

Gallagher, whose brands include Benson and Hedges and Silk Cut, is raising cigarette prices by 2p for a packet of 20, from January 23. Its tobacco and cigars will also cost more.

The Times overseas selling prices: **Monday Jan 29** (before 8.30 am) 6p, **Tuesday** 5p, **Wednesday** 5p, **Thursday** 5p, **Friday** 5p, **Saturday** 5p, **Sunday** 5p. **Foreign** 6p. **Overseas** 6p. **Subscription** 12p. **Single copy** 5p. **Printed in Great Britain** by the Times Newspapers Ltd, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. **Printed on 100% recycled paper** by the Times Newspapers Ltd, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. **Printed on 100% recycled paper** by the Times Newspapers Ltd, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

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# Miners' strike duties cut number of police drink-driving patrols

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

There will be fewer police patrols concentrating on drink-driving offences this Christmas because of the large number of officers on special duties because of the miners' strike.

Most will be withdrawn next week, when working collieries will be closed, but they have already spent such long periods away from their families that arrangements are being made for as many as possible to have Christmas leave.

As a result some police forces will not be able to run special anti-drink campaigns this year and those with campaigns are playing down the enforcement role of the police.

Derbyshire Police, who started anti-drink patrols in 1978, have decided to abandon them "for the time being". The official explanation is that after seven years Derbyshire motorists have got the message.

Senior officers admit privately, however, that the extra duties in the miners' dispute have put a great strain on manpower. This year the mounting crime rate is being given higher priority than drunken driving.

Leicestershire Police said: "We shall not have as many traffic patrols as last year to spare for a drink-driving campaign and that reflects to some extent the number of officers on duty in the coalfields."

Warwickshire Police said that they would not be having "the same purge" as in previous years.

All three Yorkshire police forces (North, South and West) are not running special anti-drink campaigns. Only normal mobile patrols will be used.

A spokesman for West Yorkshire Police said: "We mounted special campaigns in

the past, but not every year and always dependent on the accident rate."

A number of chief constables are supplementing the Department of Transport's controversial "stay low" posters with their own hard-hitting versions such as Lancashire's "drive alive into 1985".

Their number includes Mr Roger Birch, Chief Constable of Sussex. In his role as chairman of the traffic committee of the Association of Chief Constables he accompanied Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Transport, at the press conference which launched the "stay low" campaign.

But he has also issued thousands of his own posters showing a disconsolate driver being given a breath test and the words: "Think how good you'll feel if the test is negative - and so will we."

His special patrols have already breath tested 598 drivers and arrested 190 of them for giving a positive reading or refusing to take a breath test - an increase of about ten per cent on the same period last year.

In Scotland, Strathclyde Police are stepping up mobile and foot patrols over Christmas and the new year to deter drunken driving.

The Department of Transport said: "The more we are attacked and the more the campaign is talked about in controversial terms the better we like it. It makes headlines and that means it has a better chance of sticking in people's minds when they are driving this Christmas."

## Chalker defends her 'stay low' campaign

The Government's controversial "stay low" campaign against Christmas drink-driving was defended yesterday by the Minister of State for Transport, Mrs Lynda Chalker, as "one of the most powerful" ever held.

In a Commons debate she hit back at critics, such as the Automobile Association and the British Medical Association, which claimed that the campaign could encourage drinking.

She told MPs that the stark warning never to drink and drive "is just the message that turns off that target audience of younger people".

Mrs Chalker attacked criticisms that the campaign "lacked punch". It had been aimed particularly at young people, who were inexperienced as drivers and with alcohol.

"Every bit of evidence we have indicates that to adopt a heavy-handed, authoritarian approach just produces an immediate switch-off."

Mrs Chalker told Independent Radio News that the full weight of the law, including six months' imprisonment, should be used to punish motorists convicted of the worst offences of drinking and driving.

Parliament, page 4

## Fears over Intoximeter ruling

By David Nicholson-Lord

Fears that police forces may refuse to disclose Intoximeter records to motorists disputing drunken driving charges were raised after the High Court ruled yesterday that drivers had no right to see them.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court said any general challenge to the Lion Intoximeter 3000's reliability must be made to the Home Secretary, not to the courts.

The decision is regarded as setting an important precedent in the controversy over the machine. It has been an approved device since April 1983.

Lord Justice Robert Goff and Mr Justice Gledhill said in a reserved judgement that while the Intoximeter retained this classification it was "wholly immaterial" to challenge its general reliability in individual prosecutions.

The ruling was made on the two cases in which Lincolnshire police and Dr Paul Williams, marketing director of Lion Laboratories, contested witness summonses requiring them to produce documents

including the Intoximeter log, service repair reports and test records.

Defence lawyers yesterday said the legal questions raised were of fundamental importance and an appeal to the House of Lords was likely.

Mr Alan Beavan, a barrister specializing in cases involving the Intoximeter, said the decisions meant it was now "exceedingly difficult" to challenge the reliability of a specific Intoximeter unless the difference between the two readings on the print-out was more than 10 per cent of the lower reading.

Practices on the released Intoximeter documents vary widely among police forces, but it is feared that those with "liberal" policies, such as the Metropolitan Police which disclose records on request, may now stop doing so to reduce the expense and administrative time involved.

The judges said it was up to police forces to consider whether a more uniform practice was desirable and whether, in the light of the Metropolitan

Police experience, a policy of voluntary disclosure should be more widely adopted.

But they added: "If there are those who have reason to believe that Lion Intoximeter 3000 devices are generally unreliable, they are, in truth, saying that they should never have received the approval of the Secretary of State... They should therefore address their representations to the Secretary of State."

The first application to quash the witness summonses involved Mr Wayne Goodacre, of Boston, Lincolnshire, who is to appear before magistrates in Skegness accused of driving with excess alcohol in his blood. The second involved Mr Denis Dicks, a lorry driver, who is appealing against conviction by a Manchester Court last January.

The judges said the defence attempts were misuse of the witness summons procedure. Defence lawyers must rely upon the prosecution to disclose material which might help the defence.

## Jailed sex offender hired by playgroup

A man with convictions for sexual offences against children was employed as a voluntary helper at two playgroups after his release from jail, Knightsbridge Crown Court was told yesterday. Six weeks later he sexually assaulted a girl aged four in the lavatory.

Judge Pownall was told that Dennis Parsons, aged 40, would not have been taken on if Kensington and Chelsea Borough Council's social services department had made a routine check with Scotland Yard's juvenile bureau.

Parsons, who was jailed for six years for indecent assault and gross indecency, told the co-ordinator of Long Ridge Road, under five resource centre in Epsom, Surrey, that he wanted a worthwhile job.

Miss Kim Salariya for the prosecution, said: "When the play centre checked with the social services they were informed that nothing detrimental was known about the defendant."

The co-ordinator, Miss Miranda Boylan, said: "This centre is a drop-in centre, which means children remain the responsibility of their parents. Since the assault we have reviewed our procedures for taking volunteers."

Parsons also worked at the Warwick playgroup. Both groups are run by the Westway nursery association.

Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, will underline the duty of probation officers to prevent child sex offenders having contact with children.

Mr David Mellor, Under Secretary of State at the Home Office, said yesterday that guidance issued in 1963 made it clear that officers should disclose relevant character and personality details when recommending ex-offenders for employment. That would be emphasized for sex offenders.

Miss Salariya told the court that the assaulted girl "told her mother she had played doctors and nurses with the defendant many times".

In 1978, Parsons was jailed for six months; in 1979, he was sentenced to six months, suspended for two years, for indecently assaulting a girl aged three. In 1980, he was jailed for three years for six indecent assaults. 24 offences were taken into consideration. In 1982, he was convicted of indecently assaulting a girl aged 11 and in 1983 he was jailed for 18 months for indecently assaulting a child aged five.

Mr Edward Cross, for the defence, said that Parsons, who lived at Princess Beatrice Road, Kensington, South-west London, hoped to do voluntary work with old people after his release.

## Laws on food safety to be improved

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Wide-ranging powers to control the safety and quality of food, bringing existing legislation up to date with new products, distribution methods and eating habits, are proposed in a government consultative document.

It runs to 99 pages, and the Government is seeking comments from all sections of the industry and from consumer groups before deciding whether it will suffice to amend the present Act or whether a new, comprehensive Act is needed.

Many of the present provisions have their origin in Nineteenth-century legislation, it points out. There has been little movement in the past 30 years, while technological developments in food manufacture and changes in distribution patterns have led to the wider use of food additives and the increasing complexity of modern manufactured food.

This in turn has added to the already complicated task of enforcement authorities and public analysts, the document says. The role of the retailer in the preparation and packaging of food has also diminished with the growth of prepacked foods, with implications for consumer protection and enforcement.

The document proposes that local authority inspectors should be empowered to seize

and condemn a batch of food where it can be shown that a portion of it is likely to be unfit but cannot be easily identified. The cost of destruction of condemned food should be met by the owners.

Local authorities would be given a specific duty to inspect food businesses and would be able to apply for closure orders, including emergency orders, after a conviction for any offence under food hygiene regulations.

Ministers would be empowered to make regulations requiring manufacturers of certain classes of food to submit details for evaluation by expert committees of their safety and nutritional value. They would also be able to prohibit or restrict the marketing of such foods.

The document points to a loophole in the law on slaughtering hygiene, in that it does not cover birds or animals slaughtered on retailers' premises.

In an obvious reference to the sale of "green cap" unpasteurized milk, the document observes that milk is largely exempt from legislation covering other foodstuffs, and it suggests that there should be a "thorough debate" on the extent to which milk legislation should be brought within the general provisions of the food Acts.

## Dentist is jailed for indecent assaults

A Birmingham dentist was yesterday jailed for six months for indecently assaulting two women patients, Christopher Lock, aged 38, of the Old Rectory, Wishaw, near Birmingham, had denied the charges.

The jury at Birmingham Crown Court took three hours to return a unanimous verdict and Judge Ross sentenced Lock to 12 months jail with a direction that he serve only half the term.

Lock indecently assaulted Mrs Teresa Mason, aged 25, in April 1981 and Miss Tracy Rainsford, aged 21, at his surgery in Gravelly Hill North, Birmingham, in October 1983. The judge told Lock: "You plainly fell prey to suppressed psychological forces which are unknown to most normal men. To that extent you are to be pitied. You have given way to those forces and in so doing you have grossly betrayed the trust of your patients and the ethics of your profession."

Mr Bernard Hargrove, QC, for the defence, said: "After 20 years of study and practice as a dentist, his name will now inevitably be erased from the register and he will never practice again. That alone is an enormous punishment on himself and his family."

## Ice rink hope at caravan site

Details of a proposed development costing between £15 million and £20 million by Arab Investments, based in London, of the Braithwaite Fold caravan site in Windermere, Cumbria, were disclosed yesterday.

The scheme designed by Mr Jack Jones, of Carlisle, would include a leisure centre with ice rink, swimming pool and squash courts, a 1,200-seat conference hall, a 139-room marina; and room for about 1,000 guests and cars.

## Four on turkey damage charge

Four people appeared before Grimsby magistrates yesterday accused of intending by destroying or damaging a frozen turkey to endanger life. They are also accused of stealing a thermometer.

Glen Elliott, aged 19, and Kenneth Coulbeck, aged 25, both of Grimsby, were remanded in custody for a week. A girl, aged 14, was granted bail by a judge in chambers and a second girl, aged 15, was remanded in care.

## Clydeside rebel honoured

The Red flag flew over Glasgow City Chambers yesterday when the Freedom of the City was conferred on Harry McShane, aged 83, the last of the Clydeside rebels who staged rent strikes and workers' protests during the 1920s.

There was no royal toast at the lunch and at the close of the ceremony instead of the National Anthem councilors and their guests sang "I belong to Glasgow".

## Jenkins operation

Mr Roy Jenkins, MP, aged 64, former leader of the SDP, had a prostate operation in the Royal Free Hospital in London yesterday. A statement from his office said he would resume his normal duties after convalescing.

## Racing request

Horse-racing could return to Lanark, Strathclyde, after an absence of five years. Clydesdale District Council will decide early in the new year on an application to stage one meeting at the course.

## Electronic jobs

The Japanese electronics company Tabuchi, which makes components for microwave ovens and video recorders, is to set up a factory and create 150 jobs in the new year in Thornaby-on-Tees, Cleveland, where unemployment is 21 per cent.

## Falklands trip

Twelve young people from Hertfordshire are to go on a £15,000 adventure expedition to the Falkland Islands at the end of January as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Medal Award scheme.

## Duke's plea on selfish developers

The world can no longer afford to ignore the serious consequences of thoughtless and selfish development, according to the Duke of Edinburgh, president of the World Wildlife Fund.

"It is all too easy to see development as the solution of all the world's social and economic problems", he says in the fund's yearbook, published yesterday.

"Science and technology can indeed solve many problems, but they cannot replace the exploited forests, the eroded land, the silted rivers, the polluted reefs, the drained wetlands, or the rapidly disappearing genetic resources of plant and animal species integral to the life cycle on which humanity depends."

Since its formation in 1961 the fund has raised more than \$5 million dollars (£2 million) and although the sum is small compared with the needs of conservation, it has made a much bigger impact than the figure suggests, he says.

"Even so, there are all too many opportunities we cannot grasp simply through lack of resource. I hope the example of what can be done will encourage people to help us to do even better."

## £600 fine in Peregrine falcon case

A man who tried to sell three Peregrine falcon chicks, an endangered wild bird, was fined £600 at Stirling Sheriff Court yesterday.

Ronald Bruce, aged 25, of Harrowhill, Wick, Caithness, was fined £150 on each of three charges of having the chicks and attempting to sell them. For possessing unregistered, ringed or unmarked birds he was fined £150.

Bruce pleaded guilty to the offences, which were committed on June 4 this year, contrary to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

## Affair with girl offset in divorce settlement

A wealthy accountant's affair with his step-daughter's friend aged 16, should not be counted against him when assessing the divorce settlement to his former wife, a judge ruled yesterday.

The affair was balanced out by the behaviour of the former wife who, during a visit to Cyprus after a course of treatment for alcoholism, committed adultery with two or three men at her hotel, Mr Justice Balcombe said.

The judge said that the wife, in the end, had filed for divorce, claiming that her husband's "besotted" behaviour with the teenage girl, who had since had his baby and now lived abroad with him, was too much to tolerate.

But, in June this year, the husband was granted a divorce decree because of his wife's adultery in Cyprus.

Originally the couple were neighbours in a wealthy stockbroker area of the south of England, he said. They were thrown together and married, after their respective first

husband and wife went off together.

The judgement in the Family Division of the High Court in London came after a two-week hearing in closed court over how much the wife should receive as a divorce settlement. The ruling was given in public because of legal points raised in the case, but the parties must not be identified.

Mr Justice Balcombe ruled that the husband, aged 45, who has assets of around £250,000, must pay £37,500 to his former wife, aged 47, who has assets of some £80,000. He had estimated the cost of her "reasonable needs" in the future at £50,000 and had cut them by 25 per cent, because the marriage had lasted only four years and because the husband had paid £3,000 off one of her debts.

Under recently introduced divorce laws, courts have to take into account the behaviour of the parties when assessing terms of settlement after divorce.

## Colonel, 91, fails in baronetcy claim

A retired colonel, aged 91, who claimed to be the rightful holder of the title of the 13th Baronet of Mochnum, failed in his appeal yesterday.

Colonel William Dunbar, a former Royal Artillery officer, of Herne Bay, Kent, petitioned the Lord Lyon King of Arms, who rules on matters of nobility in Scotland, earlier this year. But the Lord Lyon upheld the right of the present baronet, Sir Jean Dunbar, aged 66, an American former jockey, who lives in Florida. Colonel Dunbar then appealed to the Court of Session in Edinburgh but his claim was rejected.

Colonel Dunbar claimed his father was twice married, and that he was the son of the second marriage. In 1890, however, his parents had to go through a second marriage ceremony in 1912 when it was discovered the first wife had not, in fact, died until 1910.

He claimed he was legitimized in England in 1959 and in Scotland from 1968, and that he succeeded to the Dunbar of Mochnum name in 1959, or at least in 1968. He argued that when Sir Jean's father succeeded in 1953, his succession was subject to the possibility that a nearer-born heir might emerge to deprive him of the title.

Lord Emslie, Lord President, who presided with Lord Cameron and Lord Grieve, said that Colonel Dunbar had failed to persuade him that he became the heir male on or after 1968.

Sir Jean was the eldest son and heir of the 12th baronet, Sir Adrian Dunbar. He succeeded Sir Richard, the colonel's half-brother, who was baronet for only two days before he died.

The destination of the title was such that the only person

who could answer the description of the heir male of the first baronet was, and must be, the heir male of the last holder of the title. This was the essential feature, designed to secure a continuous and predestined line of succession by descent.

Colonel Dunbar could not have become the heir male in 1968. He was not the heir male of his father, and in 1953 he was not the heir male of his half-brother, the 11th baronet, whose heir male was Sir Adrian. If his half-brother had had no heir male in 1953, the title would have become extinct.

Lord Grieve, who agreed that the appeal should be rejected, said that for Colonel Dunbar to succeed in his claim, he had to find some provision in the Legitimisation (Scotland) Act, 1968, which deemed him to have been legitimate since his birth.



Close harmony: Police officers and miners' pickets singing Christmas carols early yesterday at Whitmoor mine in the Selby coalfield, North Yorkshire. The miners, in fancy dress, exchanged their caps for policemen's helmets after they invited about 20 officers to join in. One policeman said: "It was a nice gesture".

## Schoolgirl mother's warning

Miss Caroline Hughes, now aged 17, was a fifth former at a Liverpool school when she became pregnant two years ago. Looking back she remembers it as "the worst time in my life".

She took her baby daughter to school with her when she sat her CSE examinations, and later to college, where she trained as a hairdresser.

Miss Hughes predicts many more girls will become teenage mothers as a result of Thursday's Court of Appeal ruling that prevents under-age girls from obtaining contraceptives or advice on contraception from doctors without consulting their parents.

"I can think of a number of girls who will almost certainly

## Gillick and the pill

## Schoolgirl mother's warning

become pregnant as a direct result of this decision," she said. "Many girls will just take the risk and not use any contraceptives until they reach 16, rather than have to approach their parents."

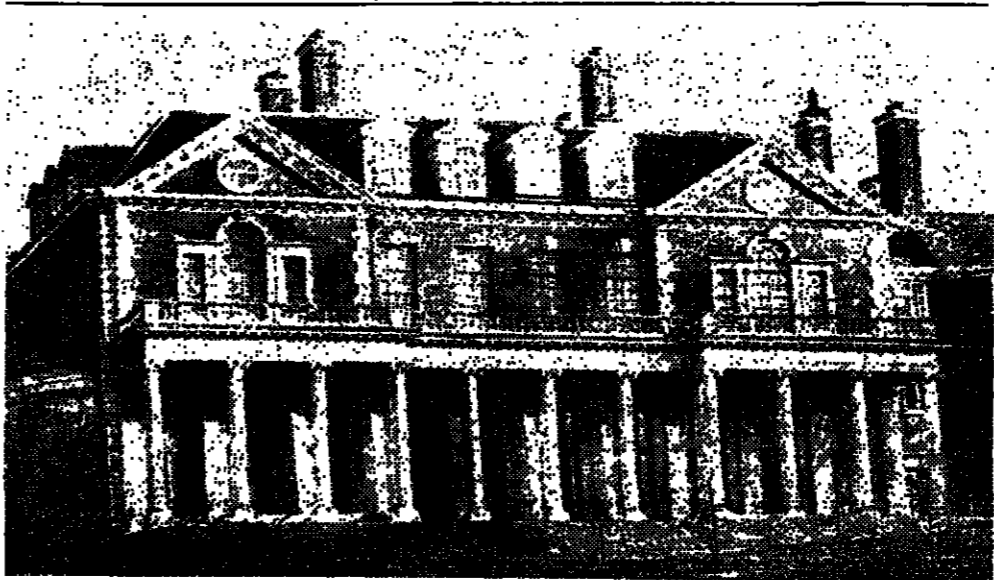
Miss Hughes said she was too shy to approach her own family doctor when she was younger. "I used to go and see him, meaning to discuss contraceptives, but I would lose courage and just go away with antibiotics."

She emphasized that if she known about family planning advisory centres, she would have asked them for counselling on contraceptives. She now takes her younger friends to these centres to prevent them

from ending up in her situation. But she fears these girls will be discouraged from seeking advice, because they can no longer rely on their staff to keep their treatment confidential.

"However good your relationship is, with your mother and father, your sexual life is too personal to discuss with them", she said. Since she has had the baby, her parents have been increasingly supportive, but when she was pregnant she shrank from asking them for help.

With her baby, Heather, crying in the background, Miss Hughes said she became pregnant by her 17-year-old boyfriend.



Grand Sale: Witnurst, a 60-room neo-Palladian mansion on Highgate West Hill, (above), after Buckingham Palace, one of London's largest houses, which has been sold for £7 million in a private deal. (Our Property Correspondent writes).

In addition, a scheme for 24 houses to be built on the slopes of the hill, the subject of

a 15-year planning battle, is to be sold for more than £7 million. It is believed that the deals are the largest recorded for the area.

Noble Investment Corporation, Witnurst's Arab owners refused to confirm the deal, but they have withdrawn an appeal relating to an earlier application to build 63 houses. (Photograph: John Voos).

## Investment setback for cable television

By David Hewson

Britain's cable television industry, which was launched amid hopes of a boom in new television media, are now being investigated by the Information Technology Advisory Panel which advises the Prime Minister.

Windsor Television is one of 11 companies given franchises to install new high-technology cable networks, but, like other cable operators, it has been badly affected by the decision to phase out capital allowances in the last Budget.

The problems of the cable

industry, which was launched amid hopes of a boom in new television media, are now being investigated by the Information Technology Advisory Panel which advises the Prime Minister.

Windsor's backers, which include Currys, GEC, and Standard Life Assurance, will provide funds to keep the company in existence until a firm decision is made.

Mr Michael Davis, Windsor's managing director, said: "We have been on hold since shortly after the Government's decision to phase out capital allowances. Cable television and its interactive services system is a long-

term investment and the Government's decision has made it very difficult for independent operators."

He was confident that Windsor would eventually go ahead with the cabling when the economic position was right.

The company was among the most advanced of the new franchises, and had signed an agreement with Mercury Communications to provide a telephone network service competing with British Telecom.

## Implications of Ustinov's death

## Arms talks stance may shift

From Richard Owen

Moscow  
The death of Marshal Dmitry Ustinov raises key questions about Soviet arms control policy on the eve of next month's Geneva talks on the resumption of East-West arms talks. The talks will be between Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister and Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State.

Marshal Ustinov is believed to have been involved in disagreements in the Kremlin in September over arms reductions, and in the fall of Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, the Chief of Staff and Marshal Ustinov's deputy.

Since the fall of Marshal Ogarkov three months ago there has been growing speculation over Marshal Ustinov's successor, with arguments for and against a military rather than civilian Minister of Defence.

Marshal Ustinov was a civilian rather than a professional soldier, having served as Stalin's munitions and Armaments Minister during the Second World War. He was seen as primarily a party man before donning marshal's uniform to take over the Defence Ministry. On the other hand, his predecessors, Marshal Gerasimov, Marshal Zhukov and Marshal Malinovsky, were all professional military men.

A military professional brings quite a different perspective to the questions of arms control and East-West relations, said a Kremlin watcher. "A soldier tends to think first of all in terms of hard-won military equipment and budgets rather than in terms of political compromise."

When Marshal Ustinov failed to appear for the military parade marking the anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution on November 7 his place was taken by one of his three deputies, Marshal Sergei Sokolov, a professional soldier. The two other deputy defence ministers, Marshal Viktor Kulikov, commander-in-chief of the Warsaw Pact forces and Marshal Sergei Akhromyev, Marshal Ogarkov's successor as Chief of Staff, are both professional army officers.

Putting a soldier in the Ministry of Defence again would be a clear signal to Washington that Moscow has the interests of the armed forces uppermost in mind.

On the other hand, there is a limited number of civilian candidates for the post. Mr Grigory Romanov, the 61-year-old Politburo member and Central Committee secretary in charge of defence industries, is

● The 35th round of the world chess championship scheduled for yesterday was postponed until next Wednesday for "technical reasons".

The referee, the Yugoslav grandmaster Svetozar Gligoric, said the next game between Anatoly Karpov and Gary Kasparov would not be played either yesterday or next Monday because the Hall of Columns in Trade Union House here would be "occupied".

The Hall of Columns is used for the lying in state of deceased dignitaries. ● Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, told Reuters yesterday that Marshal Ustinov had died on Thursday night. "We heard about it first thing this morning," he said.

When asked if Mr Gorbachev had known the news before leaving for Scotland yesterday he said: "He knew before he came to Edinburgh but decided to depart for Edinburgh as planned."

● It was thought likely last night that Sir Iain Sutherland, the British Ambassador in Moscow, would represent the Government at Marshal Ustinov's funeral.

an obvious choice for the leadership, and until he was brought to Moscow by Andropov last year, had spent most of his career in Leningrad rather than the Soviet capital, where the nerve-centre of the military-industrial complex is situated.

Leningrad is an important naval and industrial base, but has not traditionally proved an effective launching-pad for political power. Mr Romanov is also a man of small stature, a matter of no small importance to Soviet army and navy professionals, who expect their minister to have a commanding presence, as Marshal Ustinov undoubtedly had.

There is also the question of who the armed forces might back in a struggle to succeed President Chernenko - Mr Gorbachev or Mr Romanov.

The death of Marshal Ustinov has removed yet another member of the Stalin generation from the Politburo, thus helping to shift the internal balance of power in the leadership.

The Defence Industries Minister is Mr Pavel Popov, who was appointed in 1979, but is a little known figure and not a leading party member.

Marshal Ustinov, by contrast, had been Defence Minister for eight years, and had held high office for over 40 years altogether. An associate of

Breznev, Marshal Ustinov had latterly adopted the role of Kingmaker formerly assumed by Mikhail Suslov, the *eminent* *grise* of the Politburo, playing a key part in the election of Andropov after Brezhnev's death in 1982.

It was Marshal Ustinov who guaranteed armed forces support for Andropov and subsequently, in February this year, for Mr Chernenko. Marshal Ustinov, President Chernenko and Mr Gromyko combined the Defence Ministry, the party leadership and the Foreign Ministry in a headline triumvirate which has only recently begun to seek a rapprochement with the West, largely through the efforts of the Soviet ambassador in Washington, Mr Anatoly Dobrynin, supported by Detente-minded younger Politburo members such as Mr Gorbachev.

Marshal Ustinov is credited with having thoroughly modernized Soviet military strategy, forcing generals to think in terms of a future war rather than re-playing the Second World War.

He also helped to develop Russia's military programme in space, and has been behind Moscow's alarm over American space-weapons testing. Politically, Marshal Ustinov maintained a granite-hard line against concessions to the West, threatening at one time to match the United States weapon for weapon and vowing to retaliate overwhelmingly against any use of nuclear weapons by Western powers.

He threatened to hit American territory directly if Russia were attacked by American missiles based in Europe, including cruise and Pershing 2.

Most analysts agree that, although he was a civilian by origin, he became so used to wearing a marshal's uniform that he was the champion of the military in the Politburo as much, if not more than, the

But Marshal Ustinov then failed to appear for the November 7 parade, with Marshal Sokolov taking the salute instead, and although messages signed in his name have appeared in *Red Star* and *Pravda*, few doubted that he had succumbed to illness which have plagued him for years, including, according to Moscow rumour, cancer of the liver.

Ustinov became Stalin's Minister [commissioner] for Armaments in 1941 when he was only 33, having previously worked as an industrial manager. He did not enter the Politburo until the age of 67.

Obituary, page 10



Marshal Ogarkov: "Bonapartist" ambitions

Poliburo's channel to the armed forces.

On the other hand, he never lost sight of the Marxist-Leninist principle that the military power is at all times subordinate to the civil power, and this is thought to have been at the heart of his epic struggle with the ambitious Marshal Ogarkov, the intellectual professional soldier subsequently suspected of "Bonapartist" ambition.

Three years ago Marshal Ogarkov published an article suggesting that Russia might win a nuclear war, which would amount to a "decisive conflict" between the social systems of East and West.

He was almost immediately slapped down by Marshal Ustinov, who in an article of his own declared, in accordance with party doctrine, that a nuclear war was unwinnable and would result in the annihilation of the entire planet.

He later clashed with Marshal Ogarkov over whether Russia should adopt high-technology conventional weapons, as Marshal Ogarkov believed, or continue to rely on tanks and heavy missiles.

The struggle over the succession to Marshal Ustinov is not expected to impede progress towards the Geneva talks but could affect the Soviet stance at the meeting, diplomats said yesterday. Sources pointed out that the Kremlin had had at least three months in which to consider the defence appointment.

In August, Marshal Ustinov delivered a headline speech in Czechoslovakia, attacking "revisionism" in West Germany and warning the West not to try to drive a wedge between members of the Warsaw Pact.

That followed the warnings the previous year that Moscow would retaliate directly against American territory if it were attacked by American missiles based in Europe.

But Marshal Ustinov then failed to appear for the November 7 parade, with Marshal Sokolov taking the salute instead, and although messages signed in his name have appeared in *Red Star* and *Pravda*, few doubted that he had succumbed to illness which have plagued him for years, including, according to Moscow rumour, cancer of the liver.

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Obituary, page 10

Obituary, page 10



Signs of discord: Banner-waving protesters demonstrating against the Sino-British agreement on Hong Kong outside the press-conference called by Mrs Thatcher to reassure the people of the colony that their opinions on the future constitution will be widely canvassed by Peking.

## Red faces in Hong Kong

From David Bonavia, Hong Kong

British officials are embarrassed by a remark made here yesterday by Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

The Prime Minister told a press conference that she would be "astonished" if Sir Edward Youde, the Governor of Hong Kong, were not given a place on the joint liaison group, which is to monitor progress on the new Sino-British agreement, on the territory's future. However, the composition of the Chinese and British delegations has not been officially announced, and it is

considered unlikely here that Sir Edward will be appointed to the group.

Each country is expected to nominate five officials. The group will sit part of the time in Hong Kong and at other times in London and Peking.

It is feared that it may be used by China to interfere in Hong Kong's affairs before the sovereignty returns to China in 1997.

Mrs Thatcher said the Chinese leaders had assured her they would solicit the opinion

of the Hong Kong people on a wide basis.

She fielded several hostile questions from local journalists at the press conference before she left for the United States to see President Reagan, she said. Britain would have been "negligent" if it had not entered into the negotiations with China.

China wanted the lifestyle of Hong Kong to continue under the agreement, she said. She believed the "overwhelming majority" of people in the territory were in favour

## Thatcher's punishing world trip

Taking a schedule that would tighten more youthful travellers, Mrs Margaret Thatcher is managing to talk to several of the world's most powerful men on her eight-day pre-Christmas itinerary which stretches the world.

Sunday Dec 16  
2.30 Great Mr Gorbachev at Chequers  
13.30 lunch  
15.00 Meeting with Gorbachev  
18.30 Return to Downing Street

Monday Dec 17  
9.30 Meeting with Prince Bandar bin Sultan bin Abdullah Aziz, Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to United States  
17.00 Leaves Heathrow for Peking

Tuesday Dec 18  
Fuel stop at Bahrain  
15.20 (Peking time) arrives in Peking

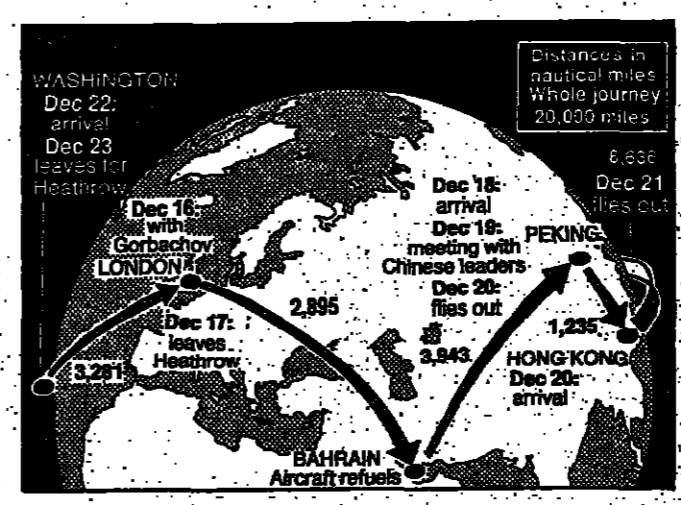
Wednesday Dec 19  
9.10 Welcome at the Great Hall of the People by Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang with Chinese leaders  
11.00 Lunch with President Li Xianbiao, talks with Hu Yao Bang

Thursday Dec 20  
9.00: Leaves Peking for Hong Kong. 12.20: Arrives Hong Kong. Lunch with local officials. 14.30: Visit to housing estate, reception at Government House, address to joint meeting of Legislative and Executive Councils. 20.00: Dinner at Government House.

Friday, December 21  
08.00: Press conference. 10.00: Leaves for US.

Saturday, December 22 (scheduled)  
22.00 (Washington time) Arrives at Andrews Air Force base. 09.00: Breakfast with Vice-President George Bush, helicopter flight to Camp David for lunch and talks with President Reagan. 14.10: Press conference at Andrews Air Force base. 15.00: Leaves for UK.

Sunday, December 23  
02.55 (GMT): Arrives at Heathrow.



party's General Secretary, and Deng Xiaoping, the elder statesman.

17.30 Signing of joint declaration, state banquet

23.05 Press conference

Thursday, December 20

09.00: Leaves Peking for Hong Kong. 12.20: Arrives Hong Kong. Lunch with local officials. 14.30: Visit to housing estate, reception at Government House, address to joint meeting of Legislative and Executive Councils. 20.00: Dinner at Government House.

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## Two tankers hit as Iraq steps up Gulf attacks

A Liberian tanker was abandoned by its crew in the Gulf yesterday after being attacked 31 miles south of the Iranian oil terminal at Kharg Island, Lloyds shipping service announced in London (Reuters reports).

Two crew members of the 52,661-ton tanker Magnolia were killed in the attack, the report said.

Iraq claimed that its planes hit "two large naval targets" in the Gulf.

The Norwegian supertanker Thorshevet, laden with 230,000 tonnes of Iranian oil, was abandoned by its crew after an Iraqi missile attack, shipping sources said.

The attack brought to 48 the

number of large vessels confirmed hit in the Gulf this year.

Five have been attacked since December 3 when Iraq broke a six-week lull in air strikes.

There were no immediate reports of casualties among the crew of 19 Norwegians and seven Spaniards.

A spokesman in Rotterdam for the Smit International salvage firm said one of its tugs was on its way to the stricken ship.

In London, marine insurance brokers said war risk insurance premiums for hulls of ships using Kharg Island had risen as much as 11 per cent this week and yesterday's strikes might push them higher.

## Levesque moves four in another Quebec shuffle

Ottawa - The Premier of Quebec, Mr Rene Levesque, has reshuffled his Cabinet for the fourth time in as many months while continuing to prepare for a crucial convention of his ruling party Parti Quebecois next month (John Best writes).

Back-benchers have been appointed to four newly-created portfolios and the responsibilities have been switched.

Mr Francois Gendron, the Regional Development Minister, becomes Minister of Education, replacing Mr Yves Bérubé.

Seven Ministers resigned last month in the upheaval after Mr Levesque's decision to abandon for the time being the party's goal of Quebec independence.

## Surprise release of religious leader in Sudan

By Carol Berger

The recognized leader of the largest religious group in northern Sudan has been released after 15 months' detention.

Mr Sadiq El Mahdi, leader of the Ansar Muslim sect or "Mahdists", was released from Khartoum political prison with 14 supporters on Tuesday. All had been held without charge under the State Security Act since September 1983.

They were detained after public criticism by El Mahdi of the imposition of Islamic or Sharia law by President Nimeiri. Since then more than 44 amputations have been carried out, 16 of them involving the surgical amputation of a hand and a foot.

## New party launched in Brazil

From Patrick Knight

Sao Paulo

Brazil's Vice-President, Senator Aureliano Chaves, has launched a new party, the Liberal Front Party (PFL).

Composed mainly of politicians uncomfortable in the official Social Democratic Party (PDS), which is controlled by its presidential candidate, Senator Paulo Maluf.

The PFL will be the third largest of Brazil's six political parties. It already has the support of ten senators, 60 deputies and three state governors. Leaders say this number will have doubled by the time of the party's first convention in late January.

Many politicians are delaying joining the PFL until after the electoral college meets on January 15 to choose the next President.

The new party, really a re-launch of the short-lived People's Party, of which the Democratic Alliance Presidential candidate, Senator Tancred Neves, was a leader, has said that it will defend the rights of the individual against the state. It will aim for a reduction in bureaucracy and will press for decentralization.

Supported by many bankers and businessmen, the PFL will be the party of private enterprise. It seems likely that the PDS, the political arm of the military-led governments in recent years, will veer increasingly to the right.

The PFL launch was attended by Senator Neves, the new party has pledged its support for the Democratic Alliance candidate.

## Both sides rest case in Sharon libel hearing

New York (Reuters) - A lawyer defending *Time* magazine against a \$50 million (£31 million) libel suit brought by the former Israeli Defence Minister, Mr Ariel Sharon, rested his case yesterday without calling a single witness.

"We think we are ahead," Mr Paul Saunders said on the 20th day of the hearing. Earlier, the judge rejected his request for judgement.

The move caught Mr Sharon's lawyer, Mr Milton Gould,

by surprise and after lunch break he rested his case, saying he also was confident of winning. Judge Abraham Sofaer adjourned the trial to January 2, reserving the right to recall Mr Sharon to the stand.

The former general says a paragraph in a *Time* report libelled him by claiming he instigated the massacre of hundreds of Palestinians by pro-Israeli Phalangists in Beirut in 1982.

The paragraph which *Time*

said was based on a secret part of an official Israeli inquiry into the Sabra and Chatila massacres, said Mr Sharon discussed with Phalangist leaders a need for revenge after the assassination of Bashir Gemayel, the Lebanese president-elect.

Mr Sharon and other top Israelis have said the secret section of the report by the Kahen Commission did not contain anything about revenge.

The commission found Mr Sharon and three other military

## Nine bodies found by Utah mine rescuers

Orangeville, Utah (AP) - Rescue workers found the bodies of nine of the 27 people trapped in a coalmine fire near here, but were hopeful that 18 others may be alive in an underground air pocket.

The dead were found away from a chamber 2,500ft underground where the trapped people are believed to have taken refuge. Rescue teams were still working to drill an air hole to the chamber from an adjoining gallery.

Smoke and carbon dioxide from the fire are the main threats to the survivors. Earlier, the mining company said that air in the chamber could last for about two days.

The 20 miners and seven engineers, one of them a woman, were seeking to break a 24-hour coal extraction record when the fire broke out on Wednesday night.

Families flee poison cloud

Auckland (Reuters) - Clouds of poisonous smoke belched from a blazing Auckland chemical factory, seriously injuring an employee and forcing people living near by to flee from their homes.

A string of explosions at the Imperial Chemical Industries New Zealand factory in suburban Riverview set thousands of litres of toxic chemicals alight. Firemen fought it under control after three hours.

Ex-Nazi waits

New York (Reuters) - A former Nazi guard at Treblinka death camp is in custody here awaiting deportation. Eyodor Fedorenko, a 77-year-old retired factory worker, would be the first war crimes suspect to be deported by the US to the Soviet Union.

Agca plea

Rome (Reuters) - Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turk serving a life term for shooting the Pope, has asked Italy to grant him pardon. In an interview published here, he said: "I have behind me not only terrorism but every idea of violence."

Coat-tails exit

Marburg, West Germany (AP) - A 25-year-old East German, escaped to the West under the coat of about 50 pupils returning here from a bug trip.

Happy answer

Geneva - Swiss French-language television has had a last-minute change of mind about showing the erotic film *Emmanuelle* at 2am on New Year's Day. Instead it will screen *The Sound of Happiness*.

Five jailed

Paris (AFP) - Five Armenians charged with aiding and abetting the bombing in July last year at Orly Airport that killed eight people were jailed for terms ranging from 30 months to four years. A sixth was acquitted.

Calling the tune

Jakarta (Reuters) - Mass-banqueting will be banned in the Indonesian capital if it leads to breaches of the peace. The decision follows a disturbance at an amusement park last week when police fired tear gas to break up a contest.

Wrong spirit

Washington (AP) - Experts who detonated a mysterious package delivered to the Washington naval yard discovered that they had blown the two bottles of finest Russian vodka, a gift from a Soviet admiral. "Good stuff, too," said Vice-Admiral James Lyons, for whom the spirits were intended.

## Gorbachov hails links with Britain

From Ronald Faux, Edinburgh

Mr Gorbachov said before leaving Edinburgh last night that the talks the delegation had held with Mrs Thatcher, members of the British Government and with political and business communities had been businesslike and friendly.

They had undoubtedly been useful, he said. The Russians left deeply convinced that a good beginning had been made to the continuation of the political dialogue between the two countries.

He added: "The Soviet delegation is leaving convinced

that the same point of view is shared by the British side as well. We believe that in the complex tense situation in the world it is especially important to show goodwill, common sense and a strong sense of responsibility to realize that an arms race cannot and is incapable of ensuring security of any state."

The most important thing is to build relations among states with different social and political systems on the basis of equality and with due account of the differences between them.

Marshall Ustinov, by contrast, had been Defence Minister for eight years, and had held high office for over 40 years altogether. An associate of

This is the position of the Soviet Union."

Mr Gorbachov thanked Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Scotland, for receiving them. On behalf of the delegation he extended "best wishes of peace and prosperity to the people of Great Britain."

He added a word of thanks beyond the formal statement to the British press for what he described as their objective coverage of the visit and the meetings and discussions that had taken place. That had been an important contribution to

the mutual understanding which was extremely important if they wanted to develop relations further.

Mr Younger said on behalf of the British Government that Mr Gorbachov's visit had been greatly appreciated. "We consider that it has been a very great success."

"We are sure this can be developed in the years ahead with the greatest of good will. While frank exchanges on our differences are valuable, there is much common ground."

Leading article, page 9

## Zia proclaims poll death blow to foes

From Our Correspondent, Islamabad

General Zia ul-Haq, Pakistan's military ruler, said in a radio and television broadcast yesterday that Wednesday's referendum dealt a "death blow" to his opponents and all those cherishing alien ideologies in the country.

The Election Commission announced yesterday that General Zia was elected President by 97.71 per cent of the votes cast. It said that 60.7 per cent of an electorate of about 35 million turned out to vote, with only 316,918 votes cast against the general.

However, the referendum results have been challenged by the 11-party opposition alliance, the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy which had urged the electorate to boycott the referendum.

In a 45-minute broadcast, President Zia paid tribute to those who helped him to win the referendum and so help him to pursue his Islamization programme during his new five-year term.

However, he did not spell out his actual political programme, nor did he give a date for the

promised parliamentary elections. All he would say was that he would make an announcement after consultation.

President Zia made an oblique reference to the need for political reconciliation in the country.

In conclusion the President announced a remission of sentence ranging from one to twelve months for convicted criminals. It is believed that the gesture will not be extended to prisoners serving sentences for anti-state and anti-regime offences.

## Substitute frees Briton in Libya

Mr Malcolm Pike, who has been detained in Libya, is to be allowed home, Mr Timothy Renton, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office, announced in the Commons yesterday.

Mr Renton said the return of Mr Pike's passport was "welcome news for the Christmas holiday".

It was a dramatic moment in the Commons. Mr Nicholas Baker, Conservative MP for Dorset North, made a plea for government action on behalf of Mr Pike, his constituent, who has been held responsible under Libyan law for the alleged tax liability of his employers, Loman Engineering.

Mr Renton, who was replying, suddenly announced: "I am happy to tell you that our consulate believes that Mr Pike's difficulties are gradually being resolved."

"Indeed I have just been passed a note that Mr Pike has now been able to leave Libya by arranging for a deputy to come and substitute for a while."

The announcement was immediately welcomed by Mr Baker who intervened to say: "The news you have given is very welcome indeed."

He understood the DHSS was looking carefully at this product to see whether it should be referred under the Medicines Act.

There seems (he said) to be no doubt whatsoever in the mind of the Department of Transport that no substance can actually artificially reduce blood-alcohol levels.

There was much more the Government could do in the form of educating people on the problems of drinking and driving and its effects.

Ultimately (he said) we need to change attitudes in this country. We need to ensure there is moral condemnation of the concept of drinking and driving.

## COMMONS

There was only one way to drive not just in the festive season but throughout the year. Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Transport, said in reply to a debate in the Commons on drinking and driving at Christmas. Her message to drivers was "By all means have a good time, but do not get on to a motor cycle or behind the wheel of a car. Go home safely by public transport, by somebody else who does not take alcohol driving, or, if you cannot get there by either of these two means, by using your own feet."

The actual incidence of drinking and driving was not appreciably higher at Christmas time than at other times of the year. The threat posed by a drinking driver at any time of the day or night or at any time of the year was something that policies had got to take account of.

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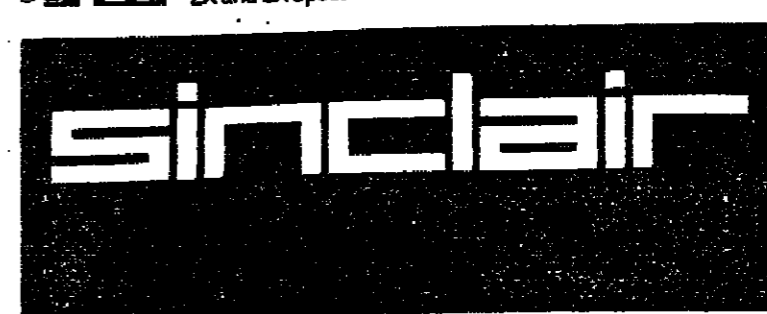
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Famine: Relief and despair

# Southern Africa: Rains end 3-year drought north of the Limpopo

From Jan Raath, Harare

Gentle, soaking rains have fallen over much of southern Africa north of the Limpopo river recently, ending the drought that has wreaked havoc in the region in the past three years.

"This is going to be the best Christmas for farmers since 1981," Mr John Laurie, president of Zimbabwe's Commercial Farmers' Union said yesterday.

In Zambia, the rains have covered nearly all the country, including the southern areas which suffered badly last year. The mood there is reported to be equally buoyant.

The exceptions are Botswana, where almost no rain has fallen up until this week, and Mozambique where the depredations of the MNR guerrillas are likely to reduce the effects of the rains have had there to the merest subsistence cropping.

Farmers in northern Zimbabwe - the biggest agricultural producer in the region outside South Africa - a slightly larger area has been planted to maize than last year. Much of that crop failed but Mr Laurie estimated that with continuing good rains, commercial farmers, who produce about two-thirds of the national staple, would be able to produce enough for the country to feed itself and leave some for a strategic surplus.

He spoke of a dramatic recovery of the veld in the cattle-dominated Matabeleland provinces, where in the last season about 10,000 livestock died in drought conditions.

An added boost to farmers' has been the lack of any serious guerrilla activity in the west.

Security sources say sightings are still being made, but an upsurge in violence expected with the regrowth of bush cover has not materialized.

The reason for the rains is the return to the subcontinent of a broad band of wet weather which in the past three years has stuck to northern Zambia. Known as the inter-tropical convergence zone, it is the region's main rain bringer. It may yet save Botswana from another serious drought.

With elections due early next year, Mr Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe's Prime Minister, will be as pleased as the farmers with the rain.

Disatisfaction among voters with the high price of food and shortages are regarded as the most serious threat to his virtually certain re-election.

## EEC: Crop yield down by 40%

From Ian Murray, Brussels

Harvests in the famine-stricken areas of Africa are likely to be as much as 40 per cent below normal next year, according to an EEC survey issued yesterday.

The calculations show that eight million people in Ethiopia are now affected by the famine, while the situation is increasingly desperate throughout the Sahel region and Mozambique. Civil war in Chad, Ethiopia and Mozambique are aggravating the situation.

The EEC believes that a total of 3,700,000 tons of cereals will be needed in Africa next year over and above the expected harvest. Two million tons of this are needed for emergency supplies before the next harvest.

This figure assumes no more than 400 grammes of food per day for every person in need.

The Community has agreed financing for 1,200,000 tons of emergency aid for Africa next year.

| FAMINE CRISIS REQUIREMENTS |                   |                       |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Country                    | Total need (Tons) | Emergency need (Tons) |
| Ethiopia                   | 1,200,000         | 700,000               |
| Kenya                      | 220,000           | 180,000               |
| Madagascar                 | 140,000           | 120,000               |
| Niger                      | 350,000           | 290,000               |
| Chad                       | 200,000           | 180,000               |
| Sudan                      | 1,000,000         | 480,000               |
| Mozambique                 | 380,000           | 116,000               |
| TOTAL                      | 3,740,000         | 2,086,000             |

(\*) Estimated requirement over the next four months.

These figures do not take into account the need in countries round the Sahara such as Burkina Faso where the Community now believes that a serious situation is developing.

## UN: Five more emergency areas

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

Representatives of United Nations relief agencies, donor countries and non-government organizations have been meeting in New York to work out a strategy for preventing hunger in parts of Africa where it threatens to reach Ethiopia's crisis proportions.

Senior Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, has identified five other African countries in need of emergency food aid: Chad, Mali, Mozambique, Burkina Faso and Sudan. He is hoping to inspire the same fervent public attention that the Ethiopian famine has drawn and mobilize the aid that then pours in.

Further down the scale 19 other African countries face food shortages. The affected countries will need some 5.2 million tons of food aid in 1985. The transport system in Chad, Ethiopia and Mali still do not have the capacity to carry the emergency aid required, and extraordinary arrangements, including airlifts, will be needed for another 900,000 tons. The total figure is 2.7 million tons higher than last year.

Aid committed at present amounts to only 3.7 million tons. In addition emergency resources required in the health field are estimated at £310 million.

By setting up programmes for next year, relief agencies, donors and the countries afflicted are trying to learn from the mistakes made in Ethiopia. A special UN co-ordinator has been assigned to organize round-table meetings so that

## Britain to give £750,000 aid

From Donovan Moldrich, Colombo

The Government is to give a further £750,000 to help victims of the drought in Ethiopia, Mr Timothy Raison, Minister for Overseas Development, said yesterday.

The Save the Children Fund, Christian Aid and War on Want will each receive £250,000 to provide food, transport, medical requirements and shelter for famine victims, including refugees in Sudan.

Products can be distributed to meet specific needs and at a pace that afflicted countries can handle.

Experts emphasize that famine conditions will be repeated unless individual agricultural rehabilitation schemes are designed. The Food and Agriculture Organization is planning to call a series of donors' meetings to work towards helping countries to establish long-term strategies.

● **ROME:** Italy's Chamber of Deputies has approved the institution of a special commissioner against hunger, with emergency powers to spend 1,900 billion lire (about £850 million) mostly in the famine-stricken countries of Africa (John Earle writes). Most of the funds are expected to come out of Italy's overseas aid budget, which has been steadily increasing from year to year and stands at 3,500 billion lire for 1985.



● **EL GORDO JOY:** Two boys of St Ildefonso's school in Madrid (above) drew the winning numbers in Spain's annual colossal Christmas lottery (Harry Debelius writes). Employees and customers of a savings bank in the north central city of Valladolid held all the shares of the first prize, known as "El Gordo" (the fat one) and it netted them a total of £63 million.

## Sri Lanka conference peters out

From Donovan Moldrich, Colombo

The all-party conference on the problems of Sri Lanka's Tamil minority ended yesterday without agreement on any system for a devolution of power. The talks began in January. President Jayewardene told the conference that the proposals that had emerged for a restructured system of local government with provincial councils at the apex would be gazetted in legislative form for examination by the Supreme Court, which can direct that a referendum is required for any Bill or clauses in a Bill in conflict with the constitution.

The President said that once the views of the court were known he would decide on whether to hold a referendum or to seek a mandate in a general election. He would continue to hold discussions with all parties involved and would welcome representations in writing.

After the conference, Mr Appapillai Amirthalingam, secretary of the Tamil United Front, said they were drafting their response in writing and it would be submitted to the President and released to the press today.

Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, the Security Minister, who acts as conference spokesman, said press censorship on the proceedings of the conference was being lifted with immediate effect to enable informed public discussion to take place on the proposals.

Answering a question, he said the view that the conference had ended without anything being achieved was simplistic. The discussions had enabled all the parties involved to understand each other's views and positions. A framework for a settlement had emerged and more discussions could be held.

Asked whether it would not have been more advisable to keep the conference going, Mr Athulathmudali said the end of the conference did not mean they would stop talking. Consultation and discussion would go on.

While Mr Athulathmudali declined to comment on the areas of disagreement, conference sources said the biggest problem was in the assignment of subjects. Among those, the most disputed are law and order and land policy and land settlement.

## Poland facing a dose of austerity

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Poland's Communist Party leadership was told yesterday that the economy had survived disruptive attempts by the Solidarity underground, but that the country would none the less have to stomach price rises and a tough austerity programme in the new year.

Mr Kazimierz Barcikowski, one of the most senior men in the Politburo, was addressing a central committee session which is technically dedicated to economic reform.

Last month the Central Committee called for a report on Communist control of the secret police in the wake of the killing of Jerzy Popieluszko, the pro-Solidarity priest. There had been rumours of a party reshuffle and many party cells in the country have written to the Central Committee to demand a clean-up of the security apparatus.

But the early stages of the plenary session, which ends today, were devoted to the economy with the basically gloomy message being wrapped up in a combination of exhortation and aggressive posturing towards "the internal political opponents," an apparent reference to Solidarity.

These "enemies," Mr Barcikowski said, had supported US sanctions against Poland and said plans to overcome the economic crisis, economic reform and the new trade unions would fail.

"But it is their predictions that failed. We must remember that they always applauded decisions hostile to Poland, that they announced boycotts... the enemies lowered themselves to the level of Social degenerates by questioning the sense of work in general, thus sowing apathy and popular discouragement."

Mr Barcikowski said that next year there would be 9 per cent rises, but there would first be consultations with the new trade unions. Such consultations usually affect the way in which rises are implemented.

Increases were made inevitable by higher production costs, expensive imports and the planned lifting of rationing of several foods.

Average wages should grow by between 12 and 13 per cent, but wages will be tied more and more to productivity, perhaps by implementing Soviet-style brigade systems. The overall aim for 1985 was to maintain the same average real wage.

Austerity was the key note of the speech, although some of the Central Committee members in later discussions thought the party was putting too much strain on the workers.

● **SIGNOR GIULIO ANDREOTTI**, the Italian Foreign Minister, was expected to meet Solidarity advisers last night at a reception and dinner at the Italian Embassy.

Today he may visit the church where Popieluszko is buried, diplomats said similar actions irritated the authorities with a new institution, lawyer, British Minister of State at the Foreign Office, visited Warsaw last month.

## Ottawa and Tokyo mend fences

From David Watts, Tokyo

Mr Joe Clark, the Canadian External Affairs Minister, who is ending an important economic fence-mending mission here has told Japan's business community that "Canada is open for business again."

Mr Clark is the first minister to the Mulroney administration to visit Japan since the Conservative Government took office. By all accounts the Japanese have been impressed with the swiftness with which the Canadian Government has moved to improve relations with Tokyo after a prolonged period of uncertainty, and difficulty over Canada's foreign investment policies.

Although the policies of Mr Pierre Trudeau, the former Prime Minister, were designed to protect Canadian industry and natural resources from American corporations, they also discouraged investment from Japan. Canada's trans-Pacific trade has exceeded its transatlantic trade and last year two-way trade between Tokyo and Ottawa was \$9.6 billion (£8 million).

The principal aims of Mr Clark's visit were to illustrate to the Japanese that Canadian investment law had been altered and simplified. Mr Trudeau's investment examination body has been replaced with a new institution, Invest-ment Canada, in the hope of establishing a rapport with the Japanese business community.

Mr Lee had issued a warning already that the PAP would suspend grassroots services in constituencies that returned opposition candidates, whom he characterized as "witness and irresponsible," when asked if this was not a threat he said: "It's as old as the hills. You don't believe that Mr Reagan is as kind to Democratic governors as to Republican governors, do you?"

The other dominant feature of the election has been youth. The 26 new PAP candidates taking the place of the retiring old guard have an average age of 37, including Brigadier Lee Hsien Loong, the Prime Minister's son, whose personal appeal and easy manner in the campaign have done no harm to his prospects of succeeding his father.

The 215,000 Singaporeans who are voting for the first time are seen as the key to a significant swing. Products of the island's first affluent generation, they are a potential source of dissatisfaction from the PAP's authoritarian style.

Political observers are suggesting that the opposition could win two seats. The taxi drivers, though, are predicting a PAP sweep.

The overall percentage vote, however, may be a better gauge of Singapore's mood. Less than 70 per cent (compared with 76 per cent in 1980) would represent a disappointing result for the PAP.

## 43% of whites want ANC talks

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Forty-three per cent of white South Africans are in favour of negotiations between the Government and the banned African National Congress (ANC), according to an opinion poll published here yesterday.

The survey, conducted by the Human Sciences Research Council, an academic body set up and partly funded by the Government, found that 44 per cent of those interviewed were against talks with the ANC and 13 per cent had no clear views.

815 white adults chosen from all parts of South Africa were interviewed over four evenings last September for the project.

The head of the research team, Dr Nic Rhoades, said the findings were a great surprise. "We expected the vast majority to come out against negotiations with the ANC."

Of those in favour of talking to the ANC, the largest percentage said such negotiations were "important to ensure peace," while a third of those against talks said the ANC supported terrorism, violence and terrorism.

Only 3 per cent of those interviewed were prepared to accept black majority rule, and 75 per cent disagreed that the granting of equal political rights to blacks was the only way to end the present unrest in African townships.

There is speculation here that one of the most influential pro-Government Afrikaans daily newspapers *Beeld* could have been used to sound out the prospects for talks.

Recently *Beeld* sent its assistant editor, Mr Piet Muller, to Lusaka, the Zambian capital, for a five-hour meeting with ANC leaders. In two long articles, he reported that the ANC and Pretoria could find "enough things on which a fruitful discussion over a wide field" could be held.

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## Spain to press Gadafi over 'Arab cities'

By Harry Debelius, Madrid

The Spanish Government is to demand an explanation from Libya of Colonel Gadafi's remark that the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla on Morocco's Mediterranean coast are "Arab cities" and should not be a cause of concern to Spain.

The move, announced yesterday, is seen as an attempt by the Spanish Prime Minister, Señor Felipe Gonzalez, to recoup some of the ground lost as a result of his five-hour meeting with the Libyan leader, who arrived unannounced on a "private" visit in Spain on Wednesday.

After the meeting, Señor Gonzalez said he had received assurances from Colonel Gadafi that the recent unity pact between Libya and Morocco would not harm Spanish interests.

Politicians from Señor Gonzalez's Spanish Socialist Workers' Party joined efforts to refute the Libyan leader, as opposition party figures accused the Prime Minister of "keeping back company" and risking a setback in Spain's foreign relations by meeting the colonel on Spanish soil.

The popular Madrid daily, *Diario-16* said yesterday that the visit was "inopportune."

## Mauritania's new leader grants amnesty

From Mary Lee, Peking

Nouakchott. (Reuter) - Mauritania's new leader, Lieutenant-Colonel Maouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, yesterday announced a general amnesty for all people jailed or in exile for political reasons.

Those benefiting include former president Mokhtar Ould Daddah, who was toppled in 1978 after leading the country to independence from France in 1960. He is in exile in Tunisia.

Colonel Taya, who was Chief of Staff until he overthrew President Mohammed Khouni Ould Haidera on December 12, said the amnesty also included former president Mustafa Ould Salek and former prime minister Sid Ahmed Ould Benjara.

## Arkhipov exudes optimism in Peking

From Mary Lee, Peking

The Soviet First Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Ivan Arkhipov, arrived in Peking yesterday and spoke of "positive trends" that have become apparent recently in Sino-Soviet relations.

Reading a statement to the press at the airport, he said he hoped discussions would be useful and contribute to the strengthening of ties and contacts between the two countries.

Talks would focus on development of commercial, economic, scientific and technical ties. "We are convinced there exists a large potential for the further expansion of mutually beneficial business co-operation," he said before he left for the state guest house at Diaoyutai.

Mr Arkhipov was met by the second Vice-Premier, Mr Yao Yilin, the Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr Qian Qichen and the ambassadors of the Soviet Union, Vietnam, Cuba and East European countries. He is due to leave Peking tomorrow for the south, including Canton.

Mr Arkhipov's statement and the warmth with which Mr Yao greeted him did not disguise the fact that the visit had been planned for May but had been abruptly postponed. The Kremlin was apparently upset by the success of President Reagan's visit to China the previous month. Moreover, the fifth round of Sino-Soviet talks, in October, on normalizing relations produced no substantive results and, according to Mr Qian, "great differences still exist."

However, the eagerness and seeming determination of both sides to make a success of the visit is likely to produce some form of trade and economic agreement, sources said. The effect that will have on the sixth round of normalization talks remain an open question.

The significance of the visit is that it comes at a critical point in China's economic development, when the leadership has pledged itself to a policy of reform, dismantling the Stalinist methods of planning and distribution and opening up to the outside world.



Not Santa: Firemen rescuing a would-be burglar who got stuck in a chimney at Sacramento, California. He was then arrested.

## Pacific naval tension worries Japanese

From Our Own Correspondent, Tokyo

An alert by more than a hundred Soviet aircraft when two American battle groups sailed near Vladivostok earlier this month has been causing concern in Japan.

Fighters, bombers and reconnaissance planes were scrambled after ships led by the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Carl Vinson and Midway sailed to within 50 miles of the Soviet coast near Vladivostok, which is the centre of important air and naval bases.

Japan is believed to have expressed concern in Washington about this provocation, but according to the Foreign Ministry in Tokyo, there was no formal statement of objection.

It was the most serious incident since Soviet and American naval forces confronted each other last year during the search for wreckage from Korean Airlines Flight 007, shot down by a Soviet fighter.

The build-up has caused increased competition between US and Soviet forces, which monitor each other and stage mock attacks. A year ago Soviet Backfire bombers feigned an attack on a US battle group.

This latest incident is an embarrassment for the Japanese, who are trying to improve relations with the Soviet Union. A constant theme of Soviet comments on Japan's international stance is that it should not be too closely tied to the American line.

## Dim Christmas in Lisbon as recession bites

From Martha de la Cal, Lisbon

The economic crisis has dimmed Lisbon's Christmas this year. Few of the bright lights and illuminated decorations that traditionally adorned its streets and squares are shining this year.

Neither the town hall, which up to now subsidised the Christmas of bankruptcy, had any money to contribute to light up Lisbon for the holidays.

Senior Jorge Pires, the secretary-general of the Union of Commercial Associations for the districts of Lisbon, said: "Traditionally our associations organize the decorations and the town hall gives us support, but this year the town hall could not give as that support, and we could not go it alone. There are only a few bright spots in Lisbon where the individual shopkeepers paid for the lights themselves."

According to Senhor Pires, the volume of sales in shops for the past year is down by more than 32 per cent.

## Mafia informer flown to US for questioning

From John Earle, Rome

Tommaso Buscetta, the former Mafia boss whose disclosures led to the arrest of more than 300 figures connected with the Sicilian underworld, has been lent to the United States for questioning on the Mafia's activities in that country.

He was flown under armed guard in a US military aircraft.

The US authorities wish to interrogate him about recent Mafia crimes and about transatlantic drug traffic, especially the "pizza connection" as the use of pizza restaurants for the distribution of heroin is called.

Temporary extradition of a prisoner has been made possible by the recent conclusion of a new extradition treaty between Washington and Rome. Because of the Mafia boss, the former Mafia boss, Buscetta, was arrested last July in Brazil, the consent of that country's authorities to his extradition, was obtained.

## New Zealand rejects Welsh farm family

From W. P. Reeves, Wellington

Residents of the small rural community of Ohakune in the North Island of New Zealand are rallying to save a Welsh farming family from deportation.

The seven members of the Gardner family, after putting £600,000 into a sheep rearing programme, have had their application for permanent residence rejected by Mr Kerry Burke, the Minister of Immigration, and his department has provisionally booked them on a flight to Britain late next month.

The booking is conditional because of a question mark over the health of Robbie Ball, aged two, the grandson of Charles and Ann Gardner, who is in Auckland hospital. The boy underwent a heart valve operation on Tuesday.

The Gardners say the Minister's letter giving notice of their deportation came as a bombshell. The family, Charles, aged 57, Ann, aged 49, and two daughters, their son-in-law Mr Tom Ball, and their two grandchildren - settled on two properties two years ago and began experimenting with the development of a new line of ewes.

Their research is believed to be the first of its kind undertaken in the southern hemisphere.

The Government has expressed interest in their work. A scientist at a government research centre wrote to the Gardners in June, remarking that collaboration would be "to our mutual interest."

In view of this the Gardners remain confident. Local people

are drawing up a petition against their deportation. The mayor, Mr Bill Taylor, was the first to sign.

Mr Burke says he understands the family sold up in Britain after being told they were not entitled to, or guaranteed, permanent residence. He explained that British people could come here on family unification grounds but otherwise had to be under the age of 45, with fewer than four children and "with a skill which is demanded in New Zealand."

## Chad rebels ban French

Paris (Reuter) - Mr Goukouni Oueddei, the Chadian rebel leader, said he would refuse to allow French military observers into his power base in northern Chad to check whether there are Libyan forces there.

In an interview with foreign journalists published in the French daily *Libération* yesterday, Mr Goukouni said: "No French officer will set foot in this part of Chad, except by force."

M. Charles Hernu, the French Defence Minister, said on Wednesday that French and Greek military officers, already in Tripoli, the Libyan capital, planned to travel south to monitor the withdrawal of Libyan troops.

The Greeks can come, along with Syrians, Libyans or other neutral nations, but France has not adopted a neutral stand," Mr Goukouni told journalists at his military headquarters in Faya-Largeau.

Libya has said it has no troops left in Chad. Mr Goukouni hedged questions on the issue but said he expected further Libyan logistical support.

He accused President Mitterrand of aiming or intending to partition Chad.

## Lee ends campaign with threat to voters

From Stephen Taylor, Singapore

After a final tirade against the opposition and a warning to the electorate, Mr Lee Kuan Yew takes Singapore to the polls today for what he has said will be his last general election as Prime Minister.

Having kept in the background for much of the campaign, Mr Lee held a big rally and a press conference in the closing stages amid signs that opposition groups have forced his People's Action Party on to the defensive.

The PAP says it is still confident of securing all 79 seats in an enlarged Parliament, but its candidates have been obliged to uphold controversial policies such as the proposal to raise the age at which enforced savings can be withdrawn from the central provident fund.

School streaming and housing have also provided ammunition for opposition leaders.

Mr Lee said he was confident of the Singapore Democratic Party and Mr Ben Jeyaretnam, leader of the Workers' Party. Either or both may win seats.

Regaining the Anson seat which Mr Jeyaretnam won at a by-election in 1981, thus becoming the first opposition MP in 17 years, has been central to the PAP campaign - and indeed to Mr Lee. In a clear warning to the constituency he said on Thursday that if the PAP candidate were rejected "then I say in Anson I need to re-examine the electorate."

Mr Lee had issued a warning already that the PAP would suspend grassroots services in constituencies that returned opposition candidates, whom he characterized as "witness and irresponsible," when asked if this was not a threat he said: "It's as old as the hills. You don't believe that Mr Reagan is as kind to Democratic governors as to Republican governors, do you?"

The other dominant feature of the election has been youth. The 26 new PAP candidates taking the place of the retiring old guard have an average age of 37, including Brigadier Lee Hsien Loong, the Prime Minister's son, whose personal appeal and easy manner in the campaign have done no harm to his prospects of succeeding his father.

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Political observers are suggesting that the opposition could win two seats. The taxi drivers, though, are predicting a PAP sweep.

The overall percentage vote, however, may be a better gauge of Singapore's mood. Less than 70 per cent (compared with 76 per cent in 1980) would represent a disappointing result for the PAP.

## Fl... Christmas heroes...

This year some time-honored...

...the spirit of Christmas...

...the joy of giving...

...the warmth of family...

...the peace of the season...

...the love that binds us...

...the hope for the future...

...the faith that sustains us...

...the grace that transforms us...

## THE ARTS

## Flavour survives in the old panto recipe

Christmas shows bring the traditional heroes, heroines, villains and dames.

This year the productions include some updated versions but the time-honoured formula is still the favourite

Like the débütante's laugh in the epigram, most conventional pantomimes are "too late, my love, too loud and far too long". But now that the old formula is threatened by censorious variations such as *The Wic or Vile Country* and *Western*, I wonder how much longer we shall see television stars in suede jenkins and medieval robes trailing their mikes on stage to bewail some staple of the nightclub repertoire.

Wimbledon's *Cinderella* proves that with good performers, a crack production and enough visual glitter, it can still work. It has the incorrigible Bill Owen and Kathy Staff, Roger the Dog on wicked form, and Bonnie Langford at her most vital. It also boasts four miniature ponies to pull Cinderella's delicately wrought iron coach, and Alan Miller Bunford's costumes for the Ugly Sisters (appearing at one point as a zebra crossing and a bathroom) are worthy of Ulitz himself.

But, despite a gala premiere that had Princess Alexandra, tonight in the antiphonal singing, Richmond's Jack and the Beanstalk come to life only after the interval with Jimmy Edwards and his trombone at their Falstaffian best: an amicable greeting for the drop curtain, some musical swanking ("not just tadpoles on wires to me"), three whooping solos and a glance down the bell in search of Ronnie Corbett. I also liked Joan Sims's beaming Vegetable Fairy and Keith Barron as the giant's villain, unashamedly played as Richard III (and how he hated Richmond).

But Kenneth Connor's dear little Twankeyish dame is hampered by poor jokes, Susan Maughan kept hauling herself into the top notes, and despite a smashing Cyril Fletcher imitation Peter Goodwright's win-

some Simple Simon is no match for Paul Nicholas's ebulliently outgoing Burtons at Wimbledon.

The Players Theatre, of course, survives all changing fashions and this year's Victorian pantomime, preceded as always by a few crisp "joke" and carols, is done with the usual wit and relish. Planché's *Puss in Boots* (1837) is a highly professional extravaganza of smoothly turned couplets, cat-astraphic puns and catchy travesties of opera. Sadly, no encores: I would have loved a second helping of the "trick" for "frustrated" ladies-in-waiting (Alexandra Sebastian, Wendy Jones and Loraine Hart), or John Orchard's Irish ogle singing a cannibalistic burlesque of "O ruddier than the cherry".

But Puss himself (himself?) stole the show. Maureen Brathwaite, who completed the Guildhall School opera course only this summer, is a tiny black soprano with a lovely voice securely handled, a natural way with dialogue and an infectious grin. She sailed through Blondchen's jubilant aria from *The Seraglio* with evident delight. What a Papagena she would make!

Sadly, this third season of the RSC Peter Pan is billed as the last, though with luck in a few years they may change their minds. I still find it an overwhelming experience. It is stunningly spectacular and beautiful, but its refusal to shirk the connection with Barrie's real-life "lost boys" also makes it unbearably moving. The twentiness is tactfully minimized, and casting a man to play Peter Pan (which made history) makes it less of a principal-boy panto than a virile adventure story.

Anthony Masters



Left: Wimbledon winners Paul Nicholas and Bonnie Langford. Right: Players Theatre show-stealer Maureen Brathwaite, as Puss, with Eleanor McCready, as Fairy Fatima

● Peter John makes his seasonal return to the Watford Palace Theatre as author and Dame in *Aladdin*, well-chosen as ever on his day, wolf-cab block bookings and other local matters. This time his concern for audience contact has taken participation well over the limit. Not content with placing spectators on guard over a shelf of sweets, he flops them into action at every turning point of the

story before rounding them up for a wailing-line song-sheet finale.

Even without these thunderous interruptions, the story is poorly told (Tizzy, a bungling Slave of the King, gets lumbered with the main magical tasks, while the lamp is uselessly confiscated by Twankey). The comic level is lamentable, and Old Peking is rendered through supermarkets and

the laundromat-TV joke (complete with Wogan portrait).

Bernard Cusshaw does better with the designs of the palace dungeon. Paddy Fletcher, a feeble thumb-biting Abanaza, doubles effectively as a clapped-out rival suitor for the Princess.

Irving Wardle

Opera  
Tchaikovsky over the top

Mazeppa  
Coliseum

The idea of the Norwest Holst series at the Coliseum is to present rare operas for just a single run of performance, which I suppose means picking works which people will want to see once but never again. From that point of view, *Rienzi* last year was an excellent choice. But *Mazeppa* this year is a different dish of potatoes. As far as I am aware, nobody has ever claimed it as a work of any historical importance; it is simply one of Tchaikovsky's other operas, showing to a remarkable degree his ability to write mediocre music when the spirit was not upon him.

Being characterless, though, is a dangerous deficiency for an opera at the hands of modern producers. The best productions thrive from that tension which exists between the story the producer wants to tell and the story the music is telling. Where the music is not saying anything very much, then directorial self-indulgence is liable to go over

the top, as it does in this staging of *Mazeppa* by David Alden.

But I do not wholly join hands with those who deluged in booing so much of the proceedings. Mr Alden's basic intuition that *Mazeppa* is about brutality is on the ball, even if it could apply equally well to war-torn operas from *Fidelio* to *Wozzeck* (and has in his productions). With his designer David Fielding he gives the work an effectively stark environment in a white-walled room lit often by fluorescent strips: at different moments it might be a practice room in a theatre, a drill hall, a prison chamber, an operating theatre. The period is unsettled. There are some nineteenth-century clothes about, but there are also suits and Homburgs out of this company's *Rigoletto*, offering us *Mazeppa* as Stalin.

OK. Fine. The setting even allows for some splendid moments of theatre. For instance, the "Gopak" in the first act is danced by KGB agents and their catamites, running, sprawling and grappling with each other: quite why I am not

sure but it looks good, and it fits the note of desperation in the music, which is certainly not underplayed in a tumultuous account of the score under Mark Elder.

Partly, these things are so searing because they are so balletic, which is also what keeps them in tune with the score. When Mr Alden goes in for gore, severed heads and flesh-sodden chain saws, he begins rather to lose touch with Tchaikovsky. More importantly, imagery becomes gross and ludicrous. Even so, the cast comes out of the evening well. Malcolm Donnelly, as Mazeppa, sings strongly and has the dictator's necessary qualities: commanding presence and the ability not to see what is happening. Janice Cairns and Felicity Palmer are excellent as the distraught women, never letting affliction spoil their singing, and rising superbly to the vocal and emotional challenge of the opera's one dramatic number. There is also a wily Kochubei from Richard Van Allan.

Paul Griffiths

The Nutcracker  
Covent Garden

When last the Royal Ballet produced *The Nutcracker*, we remarked that they were establishing a tradition to do so every 17 years. What was meant as a joke has become a prophecy, for here, only a few weeks early, is their fourth interpretation of the ballet.

Peter Wright makes little attempt to burnish the choreography into new beauties, as Ashton did in 1951, nor to find a new logical drama matching the music, as Nureyev did in 1968. Instead, he tries to restore the original Russian version by Petipa and Ivanov on which Nicholas Sergeyev based the Royal Ballet staging in 1934.

Given the generally unfavourable reception of that original 1892 production, reconstructing it seems rash. Other choreographies of that period might better repay historical research. But *Nutcracker* survives thanks to Tchaikovsky, and solely to him, so it was wise to secure a guest conductor of Gennady Rozhdestvensky's stature and ballet

## Dance

experience. His first London appearance was as second conductor of the Bolshoi Ballet in 1956, and it is a pleasure to welcome him back to Covent Garden for a detailed, well-shaped and lively account of the score.

The only real gem among the surviving dances was the *pas de deux* in Act II. Tradition had it that Ivanov's long-lost *Snowflakes* scene was equally good, but if Wright's interpretation of the old notation is valid, it has been overrated. Balanchine's Nureyev's and Lichine's modern reworkings were all more interesting.

Wright has tried to introduce a little drama around the mysterious Herr Drosselmeyer, but it looks not much different from other recent stagings. His ont choreographic coup is in suggesting a plausible explanation for a famous photograph of the first Sugar Plum Fairy standing on a scarf held by her partner - and pretty odd it looks, too, in gravure and on stage. That apart, his production is sound, straightforward except for some tiresomely obtrusive Christmas fairies, and unfortunately dull, as it could hardly avoid with this approach.

It would look a lot more attractive with designs as pretty, imaginative and enchanting as those of Benois for the former Festival Ballet production. But Julia Trevelyan Oman's designs are cluttered and dowdy. Also, the transformation of the Christmas tree is the least good I have seen in any serious production; it loses all the magic. She has turned the ballet's poetry into very plodding prose.

Michael Coleman's extremely morose characterization of Drosselmeyer is surprising but valid; presumably it will grow less stiff in time. Little Clara, the recipient of the nutcracker doll, is the heroine of the first half: not much of a character, but Julie Rose plays her with spirit.

After the interval, she is banished to a throne invisible from my stalls seat (the Covent Garden sightlines are beyond a joke) and the Sugar Plum Fairy and her prince arrive like guest artists at a gala for their big number. Lesley Collier and Anthony Dowell did it very nicely last night, but he meant to be dressed as a Christmas cracker?

John Percival

Television  
Lasting Latin rhythms

ARENA (BBC 2) asked the question: What's Cuba Playing At? Then it stayed quite a long time for the answer - an answer which included the runba, the cha cha cha and the conga. Those who have danced to these rhythms in Imperial Ballrooms all over the country might have been surprised to learn that such dances combine (to put it very roughly) the rhythms of Africa and the melodies of Europe. Like Cuban dance and even Cuban religion, this subtle commingling of sources has produced something quite rare and certainly distinctive.

And there can be no doubt about the vitality of the mixture - the rapt faces of the participants were proof enough of that. It may even survive socialism, even though everyone concerned seemed at pains to suggest that this particular music can be seen as an emblem of "the revolution".

But since this Afro-European tradition can fairly be described as the national culture of Cuba,

no doubt it will be able to rise above the politics of the day - the musicians, some of whom have played in bands since the 1920s, had certainly mastered that trick.

Itallans (BBC 2) reached its conclusion with *The Bride of Calabaria* she was not exactly an unwilling one but she was, shall we say, going to the altar with her eyes wide open. As she explained to the always unseen interviewer, "...there's nothing to do here". Everyone else seemed happy at the prospect, and the father had fatted a calf which "will feed 600 Christians" at the wedding reception.

Despite a few local variations this was a familiar story. One might not be very interested in the situation in England, and so it was hard to get excited about the fact that it was happening in Cuba. It was not, in fact, a foreign version of *The Family*, except, of course, that the wedding cost £20,000.

Peter Ackroyd

Radio  
Peake performances

Out of what amounts to prejudice I have never made any effort to read the work of Mervyn Peake. Other people's opinions and a cursory glance at something he had written convinced me that I was unlikely to enjoy the experience. Precious stuff, I thought, but not valuable - like an ultra-Gothic Ronald Firbank.

This, of course, puts me in a very shaky position to assess Brian Sibley's two Peake adaptations. Titus Groan (Radio 4, December 10) and Gormenghast (Radio 4, December 17), either as realizations of their author's intentions, or as versions likely to satisfy the small but no doubt aggressive band of Peake cultists.

What I can say without hesitation is that, true or not to their originals, these two productions under the direction of Glyn Dearman were both quite spell-binding and almost persuaded me that I ought to set aside the afore-mentioned prejudice.

Almost but perhaps not quite, for I look in enough with that cursory glance to register an exceedingly ornate prose style of a kind that still discourages me, whereas one of the pleasures of these two magnificent bits of radio was that, while incomparably rich and brooding and strange, they were also extraordinarily spare and economical.

I suspect that huge swathes of heavily encrusted prose had had to go and the effect of this was that the thread of the story itself stood out on sharp relief. And a very powerful, familiar and affecting story it is. How Steepie, creeping up from the infernal kitchens, attempts to overturn the fossilized world of Gormenghast and how in parallel Titus Groan, 7th Earl, tries to escape the net of ritual and asphyxiating tradition that is his inheritance.

Dearman's direction did full justice to these excellent scripts, although I suppose he had made his task that much easier by assembling a cast which must

surely have caused every other radio writer in the kingdom to open his eyes and gasp in sheer envy.

Would not all of us sound as good as Shakespeare with a cast like this: David Warner, Freddie Jones, Eleanor Bron, Judy Parfitt, Sheila Hancock, Edward Hopper, Robert Eccleson, Maurice Denham, Michael Aldridge, Stratford Johns, Cyril Shaps, Jill Lidstone...

Well, no, we probably wouldn't. But they were all impeccable - full-blooded, inventive, bizarre, yet with that touch of solemnity and restraint essential to such elemental legends. Then, of course, there was rock star Sting cast as Steepie and a bit of a director's gimmick, you might think. He stood apart certainly, but that was right for he was thinner, more metallic - a killer, a terrorist at large and unsuspected among a band of gaudy players.

Could there have been a greater contrast to this than BBC Radio Scotland's *Accidental Conversation* (Radio Scotland, December 18: director, James Runcie)? This short play had no author: it had been devised by the director and his cast (Eileen McCallum, Tamara Kennedy, Jonathan Watson, Natasha Gerson). They scripted bits of it, the rest they improvised in studio.

This team had conceived a simple but further scheme: a widow and her three more or less grown children go off on a holiday to Iona, which she last visited with her husband, a naval man, not long before he died. The circumstances of the death never come to light but create a sense of unease as do the snippets of news heard on the family radio.

So in a bare 25 minutes, *Accidental Conversation* developed a penetrating sense of character, both of the individual and of things unsaid and unsayable but by no means incommunicable.

David Wade

## Divisional Court

Defendant's state of mind  
crucial for re-election

Regina v Birmingham Justices, Ex parte Hodgson and Another  
Before Lord Justice Robert Goff and Mr Justice McCullough  
[Judgment delivered December 20]

Where justices were faced with an application to change his election by a defendant, who was charged with an offence triable either way and had elected mode of trial, the central factor to which they had to pay attention was the defendant's state of mind when he made his election.

A defendant was not lightly to be deprived of a right to trial by jury, so that, regardless of whether the justices might have regarded summary trial as more appropriate of the particular offence charged, section 20(3) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 gave a defendant an absolute right to refuse to consent to such a trial.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in a reserved judgment allowing the application for certiorari of Paul Henry Hodgson and Keith Barry Wiseman, to quash the refusal of Birmingham Justices on October 10, and November 7, 1983, to allow their application to withdraw their election of summary trial and to elect trial by jury and remitted the case for reconsideration by a fresh bench of justices.

Mr John Maxwell for the applicants; Mr Roger D. H. Smith for the justices.

MR JUSTICE MCCULLOUGH said that the applicants appeared, unrepresented, before the justices charged with theft of wood valued at £12. Believing they had no defence, they elected to be tried summarily and pleaded guilty.

In their mitigation, it was clear that they believed the wood had been thrown away; the court therefore entered pleas of not guilty, advised them to seek legal representation and adjourned the case for trial at a later date.

Their legal adviser applied for leave to vacate the election for summary trial and to elect trial by jury on the grounds that the applicants lacked the necessary guilty intent, and on the fact that they had been unrepresented. The

application was refused with no reasons given.

A month later the legal adviser applied again on the basis that the original election was made by mistake and the court had recognized that fact by entering pleas of not guilty. The justices, having no reasons again, refused the application. It was to be inferred that the justices regarded the value of the wood as material.

His Lordship, having reviewed several decisions of the Divisional Court, said that *R v Highbury Corner Justices, Ex parte Ali* (unreported, May 22, 1984) and *R v Darnley Justices, Ex parte Hemmingsway* (unreported, June 22, 1983) drew attention to the question whether the defendant properly understood the nature and significance of the choice which was put to him.

A most important factor in the mind of the defendant, when he was deciding which court he would like to deal with his case, was whether or not he believed he had any defence. In many cases the defendant might not know he had a defence until he had legal advice.

In *R v Creske, Ex parte Metropolitan Police Commissioner* (1957) 2 QB 391, the court would have favoured an application of a defendant whose solicitor had been delayed on his way to court and had therefore elected summary trial without the benefit of legal advice.

## Law Report December 22 1984

Understanding mode  
of trial necessary

Regina v Highbury Corner Metropolitan Magistrate, Ex parte Weekes  
Before Lord Justice Robert Goff and Mr Justice McCullough  
[Judgment delivered December 20]

Where, at the time of electing his mode of trial, an unrepresented defendant aged 17 had not understood the nature of the election, his subsequent application to change his election should have been allowed. It was not relevant in determining whether such an application should be allowed that the defendant was not represented at the time of electing his mode of trial.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held, granting Leroy Alan Weekes judicial review by way of certiorari to quash a decision of the Highbury Corner Metropolitan Magistrate on February 17, 1984 to refuse his application to change his election of summary trial on charges of assault occasioning actual bodily harm and malicious wounding, but refusing to quash a decision of January 23, 1984 to put the defendant to his election on that day. The defendant had been arrested on January 21 and had appeared for the first time on January 23, unrepresented, having had no opportunity to apply for legal aid.

Mr Richard Drabble for the defendant; the justices did not appear and were not represented.

MR JUSTICE MCCULLOUGH said that this case was distinguishable from *R v Birmingham Justices, Ex parte Hodgson* (The Times December 22, 1984) and *R v Highbury Corner Justices, Ex parte Ali* (unreported, May 22, 1984) in that there was no question that the defendant had not realized at the time of the election that he had a defence.

It was also distinguishable from *R v Lambeth Metropolitan Magistrate, Ex parte Wright* (The Times April 29, 1974; [1974] Crim LR 444) and *R v Metropolitan Magistrate, Ex parte Zardin* (unreported, May 14, 1971), because in both those cases it was assumed that the defendant applying to change his election had fully understood the choices open to him when the election was put.

In the present case, having regard to the defendant's age and his uncontradicted assertion that he had not understood the choice he had been asked to make, the magistrate should have assumed on the second occasion that he had not made an informed choice on the first.

Accordingly the broad justice of the situation required that he be allowed to re-elect, and that was the only consideration to which the magistrate could reasonably have come.

Justices can  
amend  
clerical slip  
in summons

Regina v Eastbourne Justices, Ex parte Kisten

Where a person had been required to attend court upon a summons which was defective because of a clerical error (it alleged an offence of giving a false alarm of fire contrary to section 30(2) of the Fire Services Act 1947 instead of contrary to section 31(1)) and he had subsequently pleaded guilty when the charge was put to him without reference to either section of the Act or the Act itself, the justices were entitled to amend the summons before the final disposal of the case.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held (Lord Justice Robert Goff and Mr Justice McCullough) in a reserved judgment on December 14 dismissing an application for judicial review for certiorari to quash the decision of the Eastbourne Justices to amend the summons on January 23, 1984.

MR JUSTICE MCCULLOUGH said that there was no suggestion that the applicant was aware of the contradiction in the summons or had been misled when the information was read out to which he pleaded guilty; what was read out could only have amounted to an offence against section 31(1).

Commissioners need not  
consider taxpayers'  
papers in his absence

Banin v Mackinlay (Inspector of Taxes)  
Before Lord Justice Oliver, Lord Justice Purchas and Mr Justice Neill  
[Judgment delivered December 13]

Special commissioners hearing an appeal against income tax assessments in the absence of a taxpayer were entitled to proceed and to determine the matter without referring to documents and written submissions that the taxpayer had lodged with them days before the hearing.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the taxpayer, Mr Banin, from Mr Justice Harman's decision (The Times, February 16, 1984) who refused to interfere with the commissioners' determination of his liability to income tax from 1975 to 1982 inclusive.

MR C. W. Koenigsberger for the taxpayer; Mr Robert Carnwath for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE OLIVER said that three days before the taxpayer's appeal was listed for hearing his accountants had delivered to the commissioners, without further explanation, a bundle of documents described as pleadings and affidavits. The taxpayer, a manufacturing

jeweller and said to be inarticulate, refused to attend the hearing. The commissioners did not admit his statement or look at the documents and determined his liability to tax for the years under appeal.

Were they right to proceed to hear the matter without referring to the documents? Mr Justice Harman held that the three arguments put by the taxpayer, namely (1) that the commissioners' refusal to look at the taxpayer's documents was contrary to natural justice; (2) that it was contrary to the provisions of section 50(5) of the Taxes Management Act 1970 (expressly empowering lawyers to plead before the commissioners); and (3) that in any event the commissioners had a discretion as to whether they should look at the documents and that their failure to look at them was not a proper exercise of that discretion.

MR JUSTICE HARMAN's judgment was entirely right and could not be improved on. Section 50(5) confined the privilege of pleading in writing to lawyers; it was not extended to accountants or to litigants in person.

Lord Justice Purchas and Mr Justice Neill agreed.

Solicitors: Kean & Kean; Solicitor of inland Revenue.

## Proving affray offence

Attorney General's Reference (No 3 of 1983)

The Lord Chief Justice, sitting in the Court of Appeal with Mr Justice Boreham and Mr Justice Tudor Price on December 21, gave a reserved opinion on Attorney General's Reference (No 3 of 1983).

one or more than one person without actual violence; and

(2) That the unlawful fighting, violence or display of force was such that a bystander of reasonable firmness and courage (whether or not present or likely to be present) might reasonably be expected to be terrified.

His Lordship added that it was unnecessary in the present opinion to discuss fighting in places which were not public. In all circumstances, so far as their Lordships were able to see, an innocent victim or intended victim of fighting or violence or an innocent participant in it might constitute such a "bystander".

## Correction

In *Gillick v West Norfolk and Wisbech Area Health Authority and Another* (The Times December 21), the Crown must establish:

(1) That there was unlawful fighting or unlawful violence used by one or more than one person against another or others, or there was an unlawful display of force by





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## AT THE HIGH TABLE

By any measurement of modern international statesmanship Mrs Thatcher's week has been spectacular. She started off with discussions with Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, whom Moscow is encouraging the world to believe is the most likely man to succeed President Chernenko. From there she went to Peking, to sign an historic agreement which was the product of patient negotiation during which she was initially criticized by her domestic political opponents for being too hard on the Chinese and then, in Hong Kong, for being too soft. Either way she has established a mutual respect with Mr Deng Xiaoping who is injecting the world's largest nation with a revolutionary (or counter-revolutionary) serum of extraordinary potency. Both these communist leaders, in different ways, may thus be said to have the key to their countries' future. Finally, Mrs Thatcher will today sit down with President Reagan, leader of the world's most powerful nation, with the recent endorsement for four more years of power ringing in his ears.

All three countries are at a turning point in their affairs, though some are more aware of the climacteric than others. If Mrs Thatcher's first conversationalist, Mr Gorbachev, actually succeeds to the leadership of this country, will he be able to halt its decline? Will he be able to turn the malign conservatism of his party's bureaucracy into a positive force for change? Are he or his bureaucrats aware of their historic failure to make the Soviet Union more than a warfare state?

In China on the other hand, Mr Deng is clearly aware of his need to undermine the stifling tyranny of China's Communist Party bureaucracy and to introduce a market philosophy into the world's largest country. Yet China's vastness will always make it hard to synchronize the aptitude of changing views at the top with the slow moving almost inchoate capacity of 1,200 million people to respond, in their different ways and at a different pace, to contact with the outside world.

So Mrs Thatcher will be able to give Mr Reagan her impressions of the state of affairs in these two countries as seen by her current or potential leaders. Of course, one would expect the President to discuss East-West relations with her on the basis of a more systematic analysis of what is going on than remarks such as "I like him. I can do business with him," which are reminiscent of a previous Labour Prime Minister's tendency to claim credit for being on Christian name terms with Mr Brezhnev. Such an approach to the relations between states of such different complexions as those on each side of the East-West divide introduce a distorting effect on the reality of diplomacy's potential which such superficialities are bound to

induce in Western public opinion.

There may have been some natural satisfaction in London that Britain was to be the first country visited by Mr Gorbachev after his advancement in the Kremlin, and at such an interesting time before the resumption of East-West talks. Perhaps this satisfaction outweighed more prudent reminders that, even as a Party man, Mr Gorbachev does not speak officially on Foreign Affairs or defence matters in the Politburo.

Nevertheless, for whatever reason, the underlying effect of these discussions was for the British Prime Minister to be used in a skilful piece of Soviet finesse which presented a worldwide audience with an appearance of affinity between the Soviet Union, Britain and her European allies, not just against the idea of the militarization of space, but by extension, against President Reagan's own specific plans for strategic defence against space systems.

The President's thinking on strategic defence, and on how space would be involved goes much deeper into the whole philosophy of nuclear deterrence and security over the next 30 years than one would have concluded from the focus of Anglo-Soviet discussions. The Soviet side was able to pin the subject clearly to expectations about what next month's East-West talks on arms control should produce. Washington sought to make some corrective comments but the damage has already been done before either side reaches the start line.

Consequently, Mrs Thatcher will find, today in Washington, that the week which established her supreme credentials as an international statesman, also exposed the risk of an emerging lack of mutual trust between London and Washington at the very moment when such a trust should be welded in bonds of steel for the next three to four years.

In "second-term" Washington, it is certainly possible to detect a feeling that the United States is opening up a gap between itself and the rest of the world, friends, potential friends and potential enemies. The full implications of this gap in philosophy and achievement are only slowly dawning on American public opinion and will take some time to be absorbed elsewhere. The significance of "the gap" should not be overvalued but its existence, and its political implications, should clearly not be ignored as we see out the twentieth century and cope with the start of the twenty-first. We may see the major cultures of the world grouping round some particular phase of technology which will ultimately be reflected in the political complexion of that culture. Although economists tend to judge eras by movements in GNP and other aggregates,

history is more inclined to denominate periods, from the age of steam to the atomic era - by their dominant products and technologies. As George Gilder, the American writer on semi-conductors has observed, "by that measure this is the age of the micro chip."

As she girded the earth last week, Mrs Thatcher first of all with Mr Gorbachev exemplified the divisions of old Europe. She as the leading stateswoman of Western Europe encapsulated the non-Soviet condition, though even West Europe still grapples with its inheritance, part of which is the proximity of the Soviet bloc. In Europe as a whole, there is a tendency still to react negatively, and certainly to the challenges of new technology. It is not likely to find any positive moves to call in the new world to help out the old.

While in China she encountered China's reaction not to the tired old Marxism with a European face, but to the challenge of the micro chip and China's need to respond to the pace forced in the Pacific by Japan and the other mercantile nations moulding their societies in the service of new technology rather than as its masters.

On arrival in Washington, however, Mrs Thatcher would have sensed that the gap that has opened up between East and West Pacific - between the residual socialist cultures there and the approach of non-socialists to the challenge of the future - is no wider than that which the United States is opening up between the non-socialist alternatives both in the Pacific and in West Europe.

The revolutionary potential of the United States is masked by the age of the President. The extraordinary optimism and dynamism of that country suggest that the President's age is an integral part of this revolution and not an anomaly within it. It suggests that Americans have discarded their old cults of ageism and sexism and other inhibitions on their thinking which were for a generation a kind of alibi for lack of achievement. Not since the days of Roosevelt has there been such a sense of a nation on the move, of a new strength in the United States, coming from all classes and all age groups making their own contribution to the country's emerging predominance in the world.

In the long term it will require statesmanship on both sides of the Atlantic to see that this widening gap of achievement based perhaps on two divergent philosophies, does not create impatience in Washington and resentment in Europe. All sorts of unfortunate consequences in the Alliance would ensue many of which would start small and become big. Of such a kind is the mutual discomfort caused by the Thatcher-Gorbachev talks and the White House reaction to them. It has thus been a salutary episode.

## THE CROW MAN AS TRIBAL POET

In the fitfully lustrous canon of English Poets Laureate in fact and fiction, the most distinguished figure is indisputably the Fool in "King Lear". None of his successors has achieved as high a level of political relevance, nor commented on passing events in the Royal Family with such memorable and pungent imagery; also, he had the gift of brevity, which we undervalue at the moment only because none of the recent Laureates spread themselves much after they had taken the job on. There is a thunder-and-lightning quality about Mr Ted Hughes which suggests that he is better equipped than most of his predecessors to emulate the achievements of the greatest of them.

What will the appointment do to the Laureateship, and what will it do to Mr Hughes? A sinecure in the Royal Household is likely to seem as much an impediment as a help to most modern poets - putting them in a false position and lulling their aging muse into acquiescence with a pension. The drowsiness which came over Massfield, a nan of energy and social conscience, is a standing warning to candidates. But there are nudes and muses, and they may feed on surprising food. It has already been remarked that Mr Hughes does not seem cut out for formally celebrating Royal

events like yesterday's in St George's Chapel - the traditional function which still bedevils our conception of the job, though Laureates have not been court poets in that sense for at least a century. Or rather, Mr Hughes is so very much cut out for celebrating births, deaths and famous victories in his own way that the imagination rather flinches at what deployment of entrails and bloodflows such topics might evoke.

He is an atavistic poet, insistently fixing his attention on the violence at the roots of nature, and effortfully carving out home-made myths about God and the Crow, resembling chopped-up mixtures of the Niebelungenlied and the Just So Stories. It is a style further from modern everyday life, with its infinitely various and touching detail, than the subject-matter of Bejman and Larkin. Sometimes in his later work Hughes has been at risk of seeming predictable, even of self-parody. But of course there is something atavistic about the idea of royalty, too. Mr Hughes showed his awareness of that by remarking in his first interview that the Crown was "a symbol of unity of the tribe". He may, unusually among modern laureates, be one for whom the idea of being a tribal poet may prove a powerful stimulus to the imagination.

What it means to be a tribal

poet today is very much more than making victory-chants in the mead-hall. It is likely to mean committees, letters to the press, television interviews on topics of literary interest, and generally putting on something like Yeats's mask of the "sixty year old, smiling public man". It would be a pity if all this came to seem a necessary part of the office, which may at times be best honoured by an almost silent but deeply revered sage, and at others by a Fool in danger of the stocks. But usually the Laureate today will be expected to talk as well as sing for his supper - more so, in fact. A public position implies a political stance, in the widest sense, even if it remains an implicit one. It was an enduring misconception that Bejman was an unworried figure with a talent to amuse, but nothing to say; that appearance was the means he adopted to put his point across. In the "unacknowledged legislator" line, everyday poets may change the world more than more overtly challenging ones. Every significant poet has to learn how to communicate what he finds needs saying with the means at his disposal: Mr Hughes is the first for some time whose temperament and strengths are of a type where it is possible that he may not only be good for the Laureateship, but that the Laureateship may also be good for him as a poet.

### Attitudes to work

From Mr Nicholas Bennett  
Sir, Dr J. A. Richardson (December 2) should not attempt to refute our assertion (leading article, December 6) that "many individuals" of school-leaving age prefer to take state benefits rather than look for work by arguing from a limited number of particular cases.  
For what it is worth, my own experience as senior master at a

Chatham secondary school, an area of higher than average unemployment, tends to support your point. A substantial minority of about 20 per cent of fifth-year pupils openly proclaim their intention of living on "the dole" (the local name for the dole) when they leave school.  
Considerable efforts are made by the school and careers office staff to dissuade pupils from such an irresponsible course and to equip

them with a positive attitude towards work. In the main we are successful; fewer former pupils are unemployed than in comparable schools in the area, but the problem does exist and will continue to exist whilst state benefits are available to school leavers as an alternative to training or employment.  
Yours faithfully,  
NICHOLAS BENNETT,  
22 Almond Grove,  
Hempstead, Gillingham, Kent.

## Obstacles in way of recovery

From the Director-General of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce

Sir, This association has worked closely with Patrick Jenkin and his predecessors in developing a cost-effective urban programme and has supported, in principle, the 1984 Rates Act and the current Local Government Bill. It therefore saddens us to have to criticise vigorously three decisions recently taken by the Department of the Environment, each of which has been condemned by members of the Government's parliamentary supporters, and each appearing to have been forced on the department by the Treasury.

First, the seemingly unjustifiable rise in water rates, where final details are yet to be resolved but which are expected to range between 10 per cent and 20 per cent, will add significantly to the costs of certain sectors of industry, such as the battered textile industry.

Second, the rate-support grant for 1985-86, on which final decisions at local level will also not be reached for two or three months, clearly threatens double-figure increases in a number of important industrial areas. The Government and the tarnished local government finance system must obviously share responsibility with local councils' reluctance to cut their spending. In the end business will pay and its competitiveness be impaired.

Finally, there has been the latest restraint on local authority capital spending, adding further to the difficulties of the construction industry, which has been equally battered by lack of demand. Our members will sympathise with the "voodoo economics" description: a more prosaic Chamber executive in the North-east saw the announcement as "unnecessary and unbelievable".

That business finds it hard to understand is how a Government which has made significant contributions to the reduction of industrial costs can now be forcing those costs up. Similarly, when increasing numbers of Government MPs are urging the need to refurbish the national infrastructure, capital programmes are reined back for no apparent reason.

We have consistently argued the need for such programmes to be determined over a longer term than, sadly, has been the case in recent years, and we endorse the recent call by the Institution of Civil Engineers, further supported by the Policy Studies Institute, for a broad framework of strategic planning of such programmes, rather than the present compartmentalised approach.

This may, perhaps, have been a fitting way to end 1984, but urgent remedies are required in 1985.  
Yours faithfully,  
R. G. TAYLOR, Director-General,  
The Association of British Chambers of Commerce,  
Sovereign House,  
212a Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2,  
December 20.

### Johnson Matthey

From Mr Patrick Brennan and Mr Martin Harper

Sir, In his open letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer (December 10) Dr David Owen sets out some estimates which, he believes, show that the bullion business of Johnson Matthey Bankers Limited has lost money and may continue to do so.

Dr Owen's figures, and therefore his conclusions, are wrong. The newly appointed directors now have sufficient information to confirm that JMB's bullion business not only has been profitable but remains so. The losses are overwhelmingly attributable to bank lending of poor quality. Lending money is easy. Lending in the confident expectation of punctual repayment is another matter.  
The new board, with able help from the staff and from other banks, is making progress. It would be a great pity if the job were made more difficult by wrong conclusions based on incorrect data.  
Yours faithfully,  
PATRICK BRENNAN,  
MARTIN HARPER (Directors),  
Johnson Matthey Bankers Limited,  
1 Lloyd's Avenue, EC3,  
December 21.

### EEC voting rules

From Sir Kenneth Christofas

Sir, Your "European notebook" today (December 17) attributes to the outgoing President of the European Commission, M Gaston Thorn, the belief that the European Community's problems will not be solved until the Council of Ministers applies the system of majority voting.

What the proponents of this thesis often conveniently overlook is that the treaty itself requires unanimity for the adoption of a very large number of decisions, including all new policy decisions, such as those so often taken under article 235 of the EEC treaty. Indeed there are more articles in the EEC treaty which require unanimity for the taking of decisions than there are articles which permit decisions to be taken by qualified majority voting.  
Yours faithfully,  
KENNETH CHRISTOFAS,  
3 The Ridge,  
Bolsover Road,  
Eastbourne,  
Sussex,  
December 17.

### Gnomic question

From Mrs Pamela Wilford-Smith

Sir, "There you go". How come?  
Yours faithfully,  
PAMELA WILFORD-SMITH,  
Stanway,  
Dormington,  
Hereford,  
December 18.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Keeping control of heavy lorries

From Mr Dave Wetzel

Sir, You are right to say (leading article, December 14) that controlling heavy lorries is "exactly the kind of function that a properly founded London-wide authority should be exercising". However, you are quite wrong to suggest that the current ban proposal is irresponsible or has been arrived at with anything other than due seriousness and proper justification.

It is now more than three years since the GLC set up an independent inquiry, under Derek Wood, QC, which reported in July, 1983. You are also wrong to suggest that the inquiry panel "made sharply divergent predictions" about night and weekend bans. In this respect, the report was unanimous, specifically supported by the two representatives of road freight transport on the panel.

Our work since then has been to build on this consensus and work up a detailed scheme to meet the needs of industry and the environment. This process has been undertaken openly in a series of public committee reports and meetings as well as a huge consultation exercise with commerce and industry.

In this context your charge of irresponsibility is unwarranted slur, not just on GLC members but on the team of professionals who have used the unique resources of the council to develop our proposal.

It is irresponsible to devise an exemption system to provide for the supply of perishable foods to London's traditional markets, or for necessary raw materials for London's industry? Is it irresponsible to research what steps can be taken to make heavy lorry operations quieter through driver training, better maintenance or the fitting of properly designed "hush kits"? Is it irresponsible to maximize use of the M25, not just for through traffic but for vehicles delivering or collecting goods for London?

I believe that any reasonable person who has seen or heard the evidence would agree that three and a half years of research, consultation, independent inquiry and public scrutiny have been enough to produce a scheme which offers positive benefits for Londoners at a minimum cost.

We do not consider that more will be learned until we implement the scheme and enter into our permit agreements with lorry operators.

### Polytechnic troubles

From Dr John Marks

Sir, Your welcome editorial on the Polytechnic of North London (December 13) shows a realistic grasp of the complexities of left-wing politics which have dominated its affairs over the last fourteen years of endemic conflict and disruption. But may I correct you on one point?

It would not be a victory but a defeat for the far left if the polytechnic were to close. What the far left at PNL want, and have at the moment, is an institution - funded

Ours is not a token scheme - it is the Secretary of State for Transport who is indulging in petty politicking to the detriment of the people of London.

Yours for socialism,  
DAVE WEITZEL, Chairman,  
Transport Committee,  
Greater London Council,  
Members' Lobby,  
The County Hall, SE1,  
December 17.

From Mr John Wardroper

Sir, In your leader of December 14, "A lorryload of trouble", you say there is "no great logic" in opposing a weight increase from 38 to 40 tonnes, because "overall weight is a less important factor in causing damage... than axle-weight". But if two extra tonnes are loaded on an identical five-axle lorry, as is proposed, axle-loads necessarily go up. As the road-damaging effect is exponential, it is increased by more than 30 per cent.

Furthermore, that is on the assumption that the load is perfectly distributed. In fact, the single drive-axles of these lorries are often badly overloaded even when they are running at 38 tonnes. With the extra tonnes, the drive-axles would often be hitting the road with 13, 14 and even 15 tonnes, according to county officials who do roadside weighing.

At 14 tonnes an axle does more than three times the damage of the present 10.5 legal maximum. No wonder Nicholas Ridley's predecessor, David Howell, declared when deciding on 38 tonnes: "The overall road damage potential of the 40-tonne lorry is larger."

As for bridges: ever since 38-tonners came on our roads on May 1, 1983, their drive-axles and their trailers have been imposing extra strains on many hundreds of bridges with certain critical span-lengths (under six metres and over 70 metres). Forty-tonners would impose even greater strains.

It is true that bridges can be strengthened or replaced. However, the Department of Transport has not yet even got round to deciding how to carry out a national survey to discover what needs to be done to make bridges safe for our present lorries.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN WARDROPER,  
60 St Paul's Road, N1,  
December 16.

annually by nearly £20 million of public money - in which they are the dominating influence.

What they fear most is the closure of the polytechnic and the adoption of what is increasingly becoming the only viable alternative - the relocation of its sound departments in healthier academic environments elsewhere.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN MARKS,  
2 Melbury Road,  
Harrow,  
Middlesex,  
December 14.

### Airlines policy

From the Chairman of the Air Transport Users' Committee

Sir, In his article headed "Extra Gatwick runway sought" (December 8) your Transport Editor must have misunderstood what was said at the Air Transport Users' Committee's press conference last Friday.

We did not say that "the recent Government carve-up of routes between British Airways and British Caledonian was potentially damaging to the air traveller". We indicated that too much had been made of the international route swaps when the crux of the White Paper was that British Airways

would keep and be able to expand its services from regional airports. Passengers would be likely to lose out if BA runs into hard times and, as happened four years ago, cuts back or abandons regional routes in order to concentrate on its main hub at Heathrow. Better to have independent airlines dedicated to building their own hub at the major regional airports, as recommended by the Civil Aviation Authority in its report on airline competition policy.

Yours faithfully,  
GARNOCK, Chairman,  
Air Transport Users' Committee,  
129 Kingsway, WC2,  
December 11.

### Leaving Unesco

From Mr Conn Nugent

Sir, Mr G. Frost (November 8) alleges that this organisation "favours unilateral Western gestures and treats the superpowers as if they were morally equivalent". An executive director I would like to comment on our position.

IPPNW (International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Inc) was founded, and operates today, for the sole purpose of educating the world about the medical consequences of the nuclear arms race. Ours is a non-political federation of 34 national affiliates representing more than 105,000 physicians (about one third in the USSR and one third in the USA). We communicate the same information to both East and West. We do not criticise the specific policies of any government.

At our fourth congress in Helsinki earlier this year, messages of greeting and support were received from President Chernenko, President Reagan, and Pope John Paul II and many other world leaders. An appeal from the congress was sent to both Mr Reagan and Mr Chernenko.

The message suggested that independent initiatives inviting reciprocity might be a way of breaking the deadlock that exists in arms-control negotiations.

To imply, as Mr Frost does, that an even-handed appeal to both superpowers somehow aligns us to one and pits us against the other is both illogical and unworthy.

Yours etc,  
CONN NUGENT, Executive Director,  
International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Inc,  
225 Longwood Avenue,  
Boston, MA 02115, USA.

### The ring cycle

From Mr Hugh Leggat

Sir, Mrs J. C. Manno in her letter (December 17) says that the problem of recording rings "seems no nearer to being eradicated".

Whilst this is true, must emphasize that the problem will never be solved until the Government has the will to do so. Mrs Manno refers to the "Duccio ring" of 1968, but appears to have forgotten that the main blame for failure to institute legal proceedings against that earlier conspiracy was laid fairly and squarely at the door of the Board of Trade by the Ombudsman at that time. I should know since I was then the Chairman of the Society of London Art Dealers who, through two members of Parliament, referred the matter to him.

I just wonder whether the present scandal concerning a Queen Anne bookcase is going to be another example of *plus ça change plus c'est la même chose*?

Yours faithfully,  
HUGH LEGGATT,  
Leggatt Brothers,  
Fine Art Dealers,  
17, Duke Street,  
St James's, SW1,  
December 17.

### Child abuse

From Dr Hugh Jolly

Sir, Peter Ackroyd, in his review today (December 19) of Nigel Evans's documentary, *Taking the Lid Off*, a film in which abused children talked about their experiences, has answered his own question as to what is the purpose, and the result, of displaying private grief for the benefit of a television audience. He fails to understand that the abuse of children by their parents and its causes are public, not private.

He asks, how were the children persuaded to appear on television and do we have the right to ask them to reveal themselves in front of television. I would believe that they did not require persuasion for the first time, they trusted those caring for them. This led them to be able to talk about their experiences, an important aspect of therapy.

That the public should be helped to understand the causes of child abuse is essential to its prevention. Yours faithfully,  
HUGH JOLLY,  
Hon Consulting Paediatrician,  
Charing Cross Hospital,  
Fulham Palace Road, W6.

## How to help our historic homes

From Mr A. M. Alexander

Sir, Mr Fleetwood-Hesketh (December 16) has identified a very real problem with regard to the preservation of the national heritage with particular reference to Kedleston. He has, however, attributed the difficulties to taxation policies rather than past history and people. He asks for private houses to be made free of capital transfer tax. We would all wish that taxation was moved away from our own assets and income and on to those of others. In the context of the heritage, however, what he asks for already exists.

The exemption afforded to heritage property under the capital transfer tax regime is such that, if the owner is prepared to put up with the inconvenience of public access, no tax whatsoever need be levied on the great houses of England and their contents.

That exemption of itself is insufficient. These houses require massive maintenance; and recognising this, since 1980, the Government has provided an effective medium, through the Maintenance Fund regime, to give similar exemption to the necessary endowment fund to support the houses, even though both remain in private ownership. Even this is not enough. The deprivations of past fiscal legislation still linger on, and it is this problem which afflicts Kedleston and other great houses like Calke.

There is still room for further Government assistance, whether through the National Heritage Memorial Fund or the newly created English Heritage Commission. Moreover there will always be cases where the owners, for whatever reason, as in the case of Calke or Kedleston, fail to take the preservative action which would have been available to them.

For those cases it is incumbent upon the Government firstly to educate the owners, and do everything possible to persuade them to take advantage of the reliefs that are available, and secondly it must adopt a generous attitude to ensure preservation of those properties that still fail to fall within the letter of available exemptions, whether because of archaic settlements, or the simple inertia that seems to afflict some of their owners in coming to terms with fiscal impositions; particularly when this might involve not only lawyers fees, but also opening themselves to the public gaze!

Yours faithfully,  
A. M. ALEXANDER,  
Roya Barfield, Solicitors,  
2 Crane Court, EC4,  
December 20.

### Plight of Vietnamese

From Mr Christopher Macy

Sir, The present plight of the Vietnamese (report, December 18) could have been predicted by anyone who knew the history of such migrations. The decision to disperse them was a disaster. It is known that the incidence of psychological disturbance is far higher in migrants who are deprived of the support of their own communities. So-called ghettos have their advantages.

Furthermore, it is understandable that psychiatric medicine will not help because it is not what is needed. Psychological therapy and community treatment is the method of choice for these sad people, who are not, in the main, psychiatrically ill. Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER MACY,  
(Senior Clinical Psychologist),  
Rauceby Hospital,  
South Lincolnshire Health Authority,  
Sleaford,  
Lincolnshire,  
December 18.

### Spirit of Christmas

From Mrs Angela Howard-Johnston

Sir, For three years running I have failed to find in Oxford a traditional midnight service on Christmas Eve. My disappointment culminated at the University Church last year where the "Midnight Service" was such a dreadful hybrid that several people walked out in protest. I wish I could find a Church of England church within 50 miles of this city where, this year, I might be lucky enough to find the following:

1. No requests to shake hands with members of the congregation in the contemporary cocktail party fashion.  
2. Candlelight instead of bright lights.  
3. Traditional words and carols rather than modern "improvements" illegitimately photocopied on bits of paper, and the calling upon us to turn to a numbered "section" even for the blessing.

It would be an especial Christmas treat to make use of the Prayer Book again. Yours faithfully,  
ANGELA HOWARD-JOHNSTON,  
Pulmans End,  
Pulmans Lane,  
Headington,  
Oxford,  
December 13.

### Undiscovered country

From Mr J. H. B. Gowan

Sir, My grandson aged four proudly announced that his part in the school nativity play was to be a leopard. His mother thought it a bit odd but assumed they were living things up with a few new animals. However, when his costume arrived for fitting it was a shepherd. He knew about leopards from his picture books, but had never heard of a shepherd!

Yours truly,  
JAMES GOWAN,  
1 Syke Ings,  
Iwer,  
Buckinghamshire,  
December 12.



12, 13  
Travel: The jet set's  
Caribbean club: Values:  
Sir Terence Conran on a  
High Street revolution;  
Eating Out; Drink: Port

14, 15  
Family Life; Bridge;  
Chess; Country Diary;  
Review: Videos for  
Christmas; In the  
Garden on mistletoe

# THE TIMES Saturday

17, 18  
The Week: Galleries,  
Theatre, Films, Dance,  
Opera, Music, and a  
critical guide to holiday  
television and radio

Gold mine: £725  
to be won in our  
prize quiz and  
jumbo crossword

22-28 DECEMBER 1984 A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

## Quiz of the year 1984

### GOOD NEWS FOR SOME

- (1) Who awarded himself nearly full marks for pram emptying?
- (2) What celebrated the bicentenary of an event that took place in a gutter on Paris's left bank?
- (3) To whom were Shakespeare's sonnets dedicated "for his professional appreciation of William Shakespeare"?
- (4) What of MacGillivray's came out of extinction with a crash?
- (5) Who arranged a good hand for Flockton Grey?
- (6) Where did dogolas make a come back?
- (7) Who portered out of an undisclosed kidnapping and turned up in a London auction room?
- (8) By court decision, how many hens should a cockerel keep happy?
- (9) Which Egyptian hairpiece is going back on loan?
- (10) Where did Charles Spedding finish in front?

### BAD NEWS FOR OTHERS

- (1) Which rock sank in Portsmouth?
- (2) Who shot two and was not reported to the police?
- (3) What proved an expensive place to send your mother-in-law, all expenses paid?
- (4) What triumph ended sadly in acclaim?
- (5) Which country is ruled by a shadow?
- (6) Who caught fire during a Pepsi Cola commercial?
- (7) What did Coca Cola and Cheez Doodles precede?
- (8) Where were more people in favour of a nuclear holocaust than wanted to keep freight off the roads?
- (9) What does the Speaker of the House of Commons have in common with Adolf Hitler and Larry Hagman?
- (10) Whose loss "was like the final curtain on a play what I wrote"?
- (11) Who admitted frightening his sister's girlfriends with frogs and being so ugly that his mother covered his face with a blanket and told the neighbours not to disturb him?

### NO NEWS AT ALL

- (1) Which newspaper printed an interview with Arthur Scargill which he had not given?
- (2) Who came down to earth with a bump 22 years to the day after going into orbit?
- (3) Who was buried 439 years to the day after drowning?
- (4) What had put on four more pages after 40 years and was sold for 75p?
- (5) Who cut Bolero down to size (obviously not Bo Derek)?
- (6) What had followed the long and the short and the mad?

### MONEY MATTERS

- (1) Who had £560 million to burn?
- (2) What "obvious political spectacle" made £115 million?
- (3) Where did Joseph Allen and Dale Gardner pick up £142 million?
- (4) Who had to trace family trees for £205 million?
- (5) Who could not get his hands on £8 million?
- (6) How did David Parsons get £1 million?
- (7) Who was "extremely interested" in £2,305 a year with the possibility of another £40 for an oration?
- (8) Whose home was saved by the budget?
- (9) Whose budget was short by £90?
- (10) Where was the finance minister fined for keeping a dog?

### KEEP IT IN THE FAMILY

- (1) Who proved Canute wrong?
- (2) Who invaded the everyday story of country folk?
- (3) Who photographed a calendar of liford?
- (4) Who read his Old Man of Lochnagar?
- (5) Who played Phoni Sid?
- (6) Who weighed in at 3.1188 kilograms?

### SOME OLD FAVOURITES

- (1) Who are Stockton's best men?
- (2) What price a Vulcan bomber?
- (3) How much to put your name on the Great Wall of China?
- (4) Whose favourite Bible verse contains the line: "God is in the midst of her and she shall not be moved"?
- (5) And whose: "And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out..."?
- (6) Who listed the Kremlin as a favourite building?
- (7) What would have been "a monstrous carbuncle on the face of a much-loved friend"?

### HEADLINE GRABBERS

How did the following make news in 1984?

- (1) Bruce McCandless
- (2) Rakesh Sharma
- (3) Kathryn Sullivan
- (4) Svetlana Savitskaya
- (5) Chris Butcher
- (6) Malcolm Cooper
- (7) Medlock Bibby
- (8) James Huberty
- (9) Arkadi Gouk
- (10) Michael Hancock
- (11) Brian Cobby

### QUOTABLE QUOTES

Who said?

- (1) "The characteristic of the Good Samaritan is that he had a wallet with the cash in it to pay the bill."
- (2) "Get off my bloody feet, Fred."
- (3) "In an operation of this kind one would not go for a Proust or a Joyce - not that I would

Robin Young sets a prize holiday exam for know-alls. Name the people usually paired with those shown on the right; and answer the questions below

- know about that, never having read either.
- (4) "I think I would look very closely at how many people would have been hurt, and I might have said: 'Is it worth it?'"
  - (5) "I think if they hadn't been paying me for it I would still have gone on and done it, you know."
  - (6) "I want to put the pride back into Britain."
  - (7) "I would not want anybody looking at me to think this man is a thick, stupid, illiterate yob."
  - (8) "We begin bombing in five minutes."
  - (9) "To have him in bed with me was such middle-aged joy."
  - (10) "I am not one of your local characters. I don't vote here - I vote in Florida."
  - (11) "It is not enough to rearrange the deckchairs and to ask the band to play more loudly. It is time to notice that people are looking for the lifeboats."
  - (12) "Crisis? What crisis? There is no crisis?"
  - (13) "The editor of *The Sun* was an avid reader. He was always learning things from us."
  - (14) "It just occurred to me that this was the day I was not meant to see."
  - (15) "We are utterly, totally divided."

### AROUND AND ABOUT

- (1) How is Chris Greener outstanding?
- (2) What in the British Isles is not considered worth more than 16 out of 20?
- (3) Where did Mardale surface?
- (4) And Melbury?
- (5) Who was well-chuffed at the Pool?
- (6) Which god lost his place on the pedestal?
- (7) Where did the family of man have to be reunited?
- (8) What did Jupiter collide with?
- (9) What repelled Mars?
- (10) How was Pluto picketed?

### WHO DIED IN 1984?

- (1) Who had us doing the hokey-cokey?
- (2) Brought spiritual locomotion to the Home Guard?
- (3) Went just like that?
- (4) Came by day and night to scourge from end to end?
- (5) Jumped at one o'clock?
- (6) Had been praised as Jocasta in Oedipus?
- (7) Gathered lilacs?
- (8) Went ape out of water?
- (9) Was feeling poorly... proper poorly?
- (10) Suffered four hundred blows?
- (11) "Died of addiction to jogging"?
- (12) Painted his mother with a pint of Guinness?
- (13) Fed Proust on ice cream and iced beer for a month?
- (14) Was the kid?
- (15) Was Oscar's first lady?
- (16) Was called Madam?
- (17) Heard it through the grapevine?

### How to enter

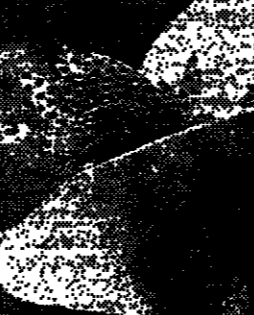



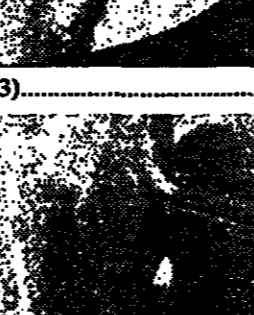
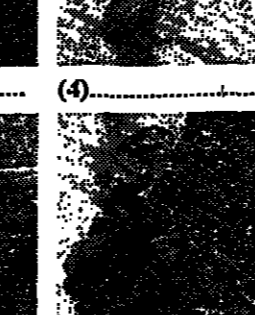
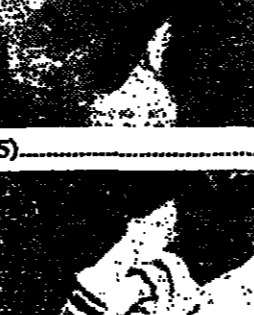
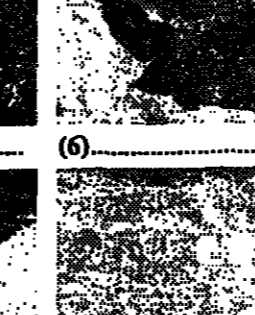
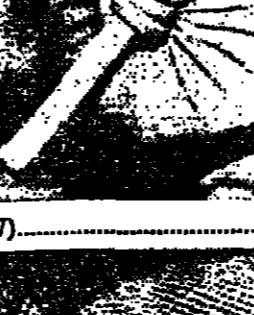
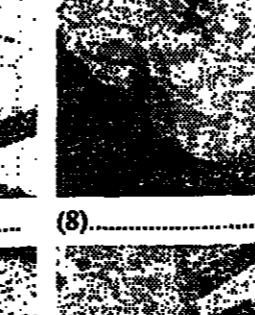
● Closing date is Tuesday, January 8. Send your entries to Prize Quiz, The Times, 12 Coley Street, London WC9E 9YT. The winners will be announced in the *Saturday* section on January 19. ● There will be prizes of £250, £150 and £75 respectively for the first three correct entries, or, failing that, for the three who score highest marks. Do not forget to include your name and full address. ● Employees of Times Newspapers Ltd and their families are ineligible. The Editor's decision is final.

### NAME THE OTHER HALF

|  |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
|    |    |    |    |    |    |
| (1) Demon dancer?  | (2) Nocturnal men?  | (3) Patronizing valour  | (4) Cake topping  | (5) They met together   | (6) Dear Liar   |
|    |    |    |    |    |    |
| (7) Not Frederik   | (8) The lesser leap   | (9) Real Ellie?   | (10) Quick change   | (11) Dixon's sisters  | (12) Phantom roller   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |
| (13) Banker and peak?  | (14) Poles apart?   | (15) Juicy favourite  | (16) First across   | (17) Wizard wife  | (18) Top of the world   |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (19) Safe presumption  | (20) Love on wings  | (21) Trigger happy  | (22) Her mother lucky?  | (23) For openers?   | (24) Asta's keepers   |

## Quick quiz: One just for fun. Answers on page 17

### WHO IS WEARING A ROYAL HAT?

- (1) 
- (2) 
- (3) 
- (4) 
- (5) 
- (6) 
- (7) 
- (8) 
- (9) 
- (10) 

### SPORT

- 1 How many gold medals did the United Kingdom win in the 1984 Olympics? (Score a point for each one correctly identified.)
- 2 Name the first three home in the 1984 Derby.
- 3 Who won the 1984 Open championship?
- 4 What was the score in the 1984 Milk Cup final?
- 5 Who is world snooker champion?
- 6 Who is world chess champion?
- 7 Who holds the world record at 1,500 metres?
- 8 Who scored most runs for England in the Test series against West Indies?
- 9 Who finished top of the Rugby League?
- 10 Who won the 1984 Formula One world championship?

### FOREIGN FILE

- 1 Who became prime minister of a) Canada? b) New Zealand? c) France? d) Grenada?
- 2 What was the name of the Sikh leader whose militancy led to the storming of the Golden Temple at Amritsar?
- 3 Who was the Nigerian in the crate?
- 4 Who is president of a) Argentina? b) Finland? c) El Salvador? d) China?
- 5 Where is Desmond Tutu bishop of?
- 6 What was the name of the tanker which sank with a radioactive cargo?

### POLITICS

- 1 How many European Parliament seats did Labour win?
- 2 Who is chairman of the SDP?
- 3 Who is president of Plaid Cymru?
- 4 Who is Labour's chief whip in the Commons?
- 5 Who is Tory chief whip in the Lords?
- 6 Who is the youngest member of the House of Commons?
- 7 Who is Father of the House?
- 8 Who is Paymaster-General?
- 9 Who finished top in Labour's shadow cabinet elections?
- 10 How many parliamentary by-elections were there in 1984?

### CRIME

- 1 What was the name of the wedding day murders?
- 2 What was the name of the newsgang whose toe was cut off?

- 3 Name the policewoman shot in St. James's Square?
- 4 And the policeman who died in shooting after two post office raids in Essex? (Score five).
- 5 Name the most wanted woman whose extradition was sought from Ireland?
- 6 Name the most wanted Australian criminal whose extradition was sought from Ireland?
- 7 Name the banned American whose appearance in Northern Ireland led to a death?
- 8 Whose death? (Score three).

### MISCELLANY

- 1 Who edits a) *The Spectator*? b) *The Field*? c) *The Tatler*? d) *The Times*?
- 2 What earth-shaking event occurred on July 19?
- 3 What came as a thunderbolt on July 8?
- 4 Who went summoned by bells?
- 5 Was it Marmaduke Gingerbites or Sonny?
- 6 What was too big for Barni?
- 7 What was unmentionable in front of royalty?

### ARTS

- 1 Who won the Booker Prize?
- 2 Who won the Betty Trask Memorial prize?
- 3 Who won the Prix Goncourt?
- 4 Who won the Nobel Prize for Literature? (Score two).

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## VALUES

## Stand by for the counter revolution

**Sir Terence Conran - the man who made Habitat a habit - feels the pulse of the High Street and suggests a remedy: better design, better quality, better sales**

Design, the buzzword of 1983, has been the action word of 1984. Last year Mrs Thatcher exhorted retailers, manufacturers, public authorities, and the City to look to good design as the solution to many of the commercial, industrial and social ills of this country. And it wasn't just lip service. The Government put up £20m spread over five years to get things started - and this has encouraged those who are in a position to do so to invest heavily in this newly recognized resource.

As a result, a metamorphosis is taking place. Designers are rapidly losing the image of arty aesthetes who would never darken a factory door, and are emerging as vital components of the business scene.

The design colleges are responding, at last, producing graduates who have been trained to understand the needs and constraints of industry and commerce, who can design products which look as good and work as well as those produced anywhere else in the world, and who can interpret fashion and mood. Designers of this calibre deserve and need to reach the highest level of responsibility within their companies.

Retailers are at the forefront of those seeking to benefit from the additional value design can bring to their businesses. One of the reasons is that they have direct contact with the consumer and know at first hand just how demanding, fickle and sophisticated their customers have become.

The public, educated by travel, the media, and a growing band of retailers who recognize that well designed, good looking products will sell better, have a new-found taste for excellence, and will now settle for nothing less.

Retailing is one of the most competitive industries in Britain today, and this has resulted in a very active, innovative and exciting scene as businesses vie with each other to gain the edge. Design is a means of providing this edge - particularly in the hands of the larger retailers.

Products designed and manufactured exclusively for the retailer cannot be sold at a cheaper price anywhere else, own brands can be developed, special store design can exactly fit the needs of the customer and the style of the products, the corporate image can be strengthened and sharpened through distinctive graphics and packaging. All this adds up to a shop with its own particular personality which will endear itself to its own customers.

Design is now a multi-layered discipline which should be built into all the marketing and promotional strategies of a business right from their inception. The retailer who brings in a designer to do a quick facelift job, on a tired product or concept is wasting his money.

There are other factors too which have spurred the retail sector into handing out some of the largest design contracts this year. The recognition of shopping as a leisure time activity rivaling holidays abroad, sport, television and eating out, in popularity, has caused an enormous upheaval in the retail trade. The public have made it plain that they look to retailers to make shopping pleasurable.

Retailers are now strenuously considering how they are going to meet this expectation, and many new measures are in the pipeline which will revolutionize shopping habits in this country - liberalized shop hours and Sunday trading are among those in the headlines lately.

Following on from this, the design of store interiors, shopping precincts and malls, both new and old, is receiving a great deal of attention from retailers and property owners who already know that a pleasing ambience can have a remarkably beneficial effect on sales.

A recent example of this in our own group, has been the performance of those Richard Shops stores that have been completely revamped. Sales in these stores have far exceeded those where there has been no new design input, even though they are all selling the same merchandise.

The out-of-town superstore complex is another phenomenon which is likely to become more popular with the liberalization of shopping hours. Served by excellent communications these sites will offer a chance for designers to create an environment where it will be a pleasure to shop and work.

The development of such complexes is obviously a major undertaking and large multiple retailers are finding it beneficial to work together to attract customers from considerable distances for a pleasant day out. British Home Stores and Sainsbury's have already formed such a partnership,

and Marks & Spencer and Tesco have recently announced their intention of working together.

All this can be bad news for the small retailer who does not have the resources or volumes to achieve exclusivity or a price advantage over the large multiples. His future must lie in the quality end of the market, supplying a very high level of service to the customer, or in specialized areas of merchandise, or both. In these shops the quality and devotion to design will really have to reign supreme, and the liveliest new ideas must constantly be put before the public to provide an irresistible temptation.

To use design effectively in retailing it is essential that the retailer knows the profile of the person to whom he is selling. This is particularly important in the fashion industry, as has been demonstrated by the continued success of the Next chain this year where the design of the clothes, stores and advertising are very specifically targeted to attract 25 to 40-year-old women. By comparison, Marks & Spencer which have introduced some excellent ranges for the same target group, have turned in relatively disappointing results - the customer cannot spot the fashion potential in garments dully displayed on racks lost in a sea of other clothes designed to appeal to everybody.

Manufacturing industry must follow the dictates of the retailers. And so it is, but in many cases it is rather like watching a dinosaur follow a hare. Retailers are still too often having to look abroad for sources of merchandise which with a bit of ingenuity and entrepreneurship could easily be produced in this country. If manufacturers can succeed in fulfilling the needs of the informed and discerning consumer in this country he will doubtless have a product which will be equally successful abroad.

But let me make one thing quite clear: while retailers will lead, manufacturers must also expect to contribute with design and innovation - they must never allow themselves to take the easy route of just being told what to do.

This new found regard for design has its pitfalls - the danger that we will expect it to be a panacea for all ills, that it will somehow compensate for weak management and unsound financial administration. Or that having made an investment in design it does not need to be sustained - the market place is continually evolving and competitors are always snapping at each other's heels.



Natural habitat: Sir Terence Conran in the living room of his home at Eaton Place in London

## EATING OUT

## Rendezvous with a midnight feast

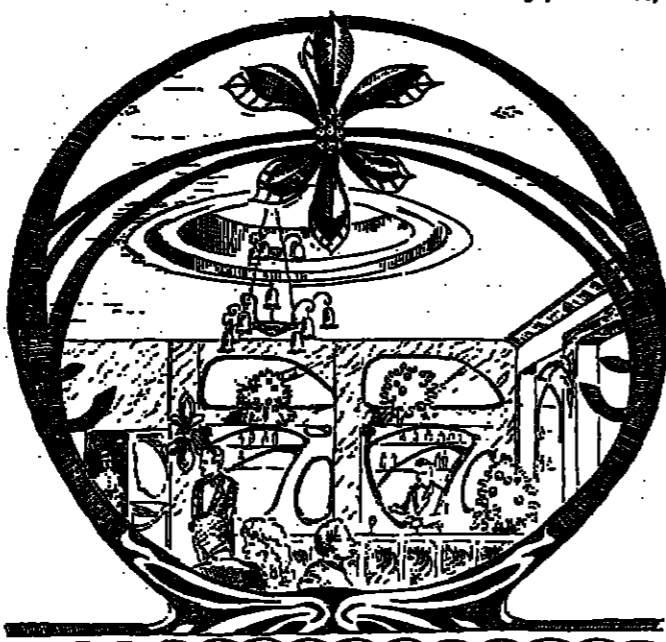
With Christmas almost upon us, New Year's Eve now beckons to those with the stamina for further festivities. Here we list a variety of possibilities for the last hash of the year.

New Year's Eve is supposedly the time for resolutions about changing or improving one's life. Anyone who is about to resolve to save money and to eat less would therefore be well-advised to head for the Grosvenor House's luxury restaurant Ninety Park Lane. As a last indulgence before an era of austerity, the restaurant's New Year's Eve dinner would seem hard to beat.

A nine-course meal is offered, with dancing - if anyone can manage it - for £110 a head. Overnight accommodation for those not "staying low" is available at £60 per double room. The menu for this extravaganza includes fresh truffle salad, scrambled eggs with oysters, seafood scallops in herb sauce, saddle of venison with blueberries and cinnamon pears and capon breast in truffle juice - this is before the cheeses and desserts. The evening begins with a champagne reception.

On a slightly more modest scale, the hotel's bright and modern all-day cafe-restaurant The Pavilion is offering a New Year's Eve dinner with a Caribbean flavour, complete with steel band, for £45. The menu includes half a bottle of wine, rum punches and three buffet-style courses of succulent pig, chicken, okra casserole and prawns in ginger and coconut sauce. For those who limbo on to the next morning, a New Year's Day brunch is offered from 10am at £18 per very sore head.

Back in the luxury-class, the London Hilton's Roof Restaurant offers a spectacular £115 Gala Evening to match its spectacular view over celebrating London. A seven-course dinner-dance includes fillet of



sea-bass marinated in Chablis, lobster and oysters with caviar, fillet of veal en croûte and petits fours. If you hear music and laughter coming up from below, it will almost certainly be The Variety Club Ball, complete with cabaret, taking place in the ballroom.

Another "money-no-object" evening can be enjoyed at the elegant Maxim's de Paris restaurant just off Leicester Square. £100 will buy you a champagne reception, a seven course dinner and dancing till 3am to an 11-piece orchestra, with the added French touch of a cancan cabaret. The evening's black tie as well as black stocking.

Stockings and suspenders will also be a prime feature of the evenings at the two School Dinners restaurants which will no doubt look back on 1984 as the year they received royal patronage in the shape of Prince Andrew. With the gymnasium waitresses providing the distraction and unlimited drinks "free" all night, I don't suppose one should expect too much

from the dinner - avocado with prawns, melon cocktail, entrecôte steak, breast of chicken with yoghurt dip and apple pie with cream shouldn't really account for the £50 a head charge. Given the circumstances, perhaps that should read £25 a leg?

For a slightly more edifying spectacle, and at a reasonable price too, the eye-catching and spacious restaurant at One Hampstead Lane is worth consideration. For £29.95, they are offering a five-course dinner with champagne and champagne, complemented by live jazz and dancing. The well-balanced menu embraces game consommé, poached monkfish with a champagne and lobster sauce, mignons of lamb, beef and veal in a truffle and madeira sauce and a meringue with caramel.

I would imagine that Italian restaurants create a lively atmosphere on New Year's Eve when most of them can make an average Monday exciting. A recent arrival on the scene Quadrifoglio, tucked away in its own stylish courtyard off

Charing Cross Road, probably deserves attention, not least because of its parentage - the well-thought of Il Passetto in Shaftesbury Avenue.

Quadrifoglio is extremely smart-looking, with art deco touches, a small stage for its resident trio and a dance area. On December 31, they will be offering a five-course meal for £29.50, exclusive of a 15 per cent service charge. The menu, unusually for a New Year's Eve special, offers choices at most of the stages, ranging from crab cocktail or melon with port, to scampi in white wine, garlic and brandy sauce or fillet steak with peas and madeira sauce.

Finally, a mention for another stylish venue, the recently opened Princess Garden in North Audley Street. This sumptuously decorated Peking style restaurant has a number of large, circular tables capable of accommodating parties of up to 12. The menu, created by three imported chefs from Hong Kong, offers a wide range of excellent dishes, with their own hand-drawn illustrations, the crispy pork dumplings being particularly good. At the time of writing the restaurant did not yet know whether it would be offering a special dinner or entertainment on December 31 - but then it's not their New Year, is it?

Stan Hey

Ninety Park Lane and The Pavilion, Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London W1 (499 8363). Roof Restaurant, London Hilton, Park Lane, London W1 (493 8000, ext 4018). Maxim's de Paris, 32 Piccadilly, London W1 (493 3051). School Dinners, 34 Baker Street, London W1 (496 2724) and at Barnard's Inn, Holborn, London EC1 (242 9572).

One Hampstead Lane, 1 Hampstead Lane, London N6 (340 4444). Quadrifoglio, 127 Charing Cross Road, London WC2 (437 8595). Princess Garden, 8-10 North Audley Street, London W1 (493 3223).

## DRINK

## Singled out as ports of distinction

Port nomenclature is confusing, with "crusted this" and "late-bottled that" sold alongside those more familiar bottles of ruby, tawny and vintage port. Thankfully, all one needs to know is that apart from vintage ports, the only wines likely to show any vintage character are the ports from a single quinta (estate). So don't expect that Christmas cut-price bottle of "Vintage Character" port to remind you of Graham's '63 or Taylor '55 because it won't.

Vintage ports are a blend of the wines of several quintas. But some single quinta ports may well remind you of the real thing. Taylor's distinctive Quinta de Vargellas, for instance, has a particularly powerful bouquet reminiscent of violets and I pick up the same violet character in their vintage ports, which contain a proportion of Vargellas wines in their blend.

Graham's Malvedos is another good example. I find their wines have a strong tea-rose scent and their vintage ports often have a touch of tea-rose on the bouquet.

In recent years the distinction between what does and what does not constitute a single quinta port has become blurred. This will probably only get sorted out when Portugal enters the EEC.

In the meantime the rule appears to be that single quinta ports are only produced in good rather than great years and therefore mature faster and cost less than vintage ports. I have not yet come across a port house that has declared a vintage port and a single quinta port in the same year.

There are thousands of quintas scattered throughout the port wine region's steep terraced hillsides that follow the mighty Douro for 70 miles as it flows down from the Spanish border towards Oporto and the Atlantic coast. What always surprises me when comparing one quinta's wine with another are the extreme differences in style between them and therefore how complex the art of port blending must be.

Those hot low-lying quintas clustered round Pinhão, for instance, tend to make big, beefy almost burnt wines while the cooler quintas higher up the Douro often make wines with a stinky green flavour and there is every shade of flavour in



bodied wines typified by their '80 vintage. (Corney & Barrow, £9.20.) Not dissimilar in style is the '68 Fonseca Guimaraens whose big, beefy burnt Douro tang reminds me strongly of Fonseca's vintage ports. (Oddbins, £8.79; Russell & McIver, The Rectory, St Mary at Hill, London EC1, £10.35.)

The two most famous single quinta names - and deservedly so - are Graham's Malvedos and Taylor's Vargellas. Malvedos's superb '68 vintage, with its wonderful spicy tea-rose bouquet and taste, is, I think, one of the best Malvedos vintages ever and a real bargain, priced at £8.95 from Sainsbury's or £10 from Lay & Wheeler, 6 Culver Street, Colchester, Essex. Vargellas '72 is another wonderful wine from a quinta set in wild scrub-like terrain even higher up the Douro whose deep purple colour and seductive velvety-violet character will be perfection in a year or so's time. (Bottoms Up £7.60, Gough Bros £9.99.)

Jane MacQuitty

Single quinta ports spend only two years in cask before being bottled and will therefore throw a heavy sediment whilst maturing in bottle. So make sure you decant single quinta ports carefully before serving.

Last minute Christmas wine buyers will be glad to know that on Christmas Eve La Vigneronne at 105 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 will stay open until 11pm and Bibendum at 113 Regent's Park Road, London NW1 until 8pm.



At Christmas the tradition is of course Roast Turkey, but many choose Goose, Chicken, Duck, Beef or Game. Whatever the fare, hot or cold, drink a delicious Rioja wine, a velvety red or a dry fruity white. Don't forget those working in the kitchen! A glass of Rioja whilst preparing the family feast is always appreciated. Explore the wonderful wines of Rioja and find a quality and value that is unequalled.

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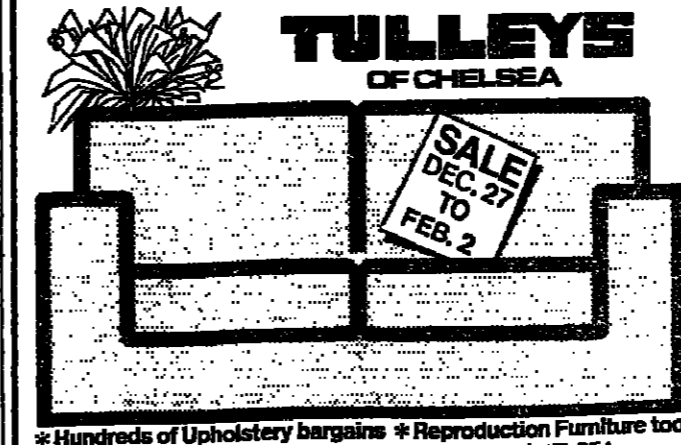
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Peter Waymark on seasonal videos

REVIEW

# Pointed remarks from old troupers

Hancock: The Blood Donor (with The Missing Page and Twelve Angry Men); The Lift (with The Ladies' Man and Lord Byron Live Here). Each 90 mins. BBC Video, £24.95, released Jan 21.  
Sykes: Golf, Stranger and Squatters (88 mins). BBC Video, £29.95.  
Morecambe and Wise Musical Extravaganza (80 mins). BBC Video, £19.99.  
Singalongamax with Max Bygraves (55 mins). Peppermint Video, £19.95.  
The Illustrated Victorian Songbook (55 mins). By post from Eng Video, 24 Broad Way, Elgar Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 9SE.

"Stone me", he is probably saying, "they've got me on video. All that talent in little plastic boxes. Trapped for posterity I am." And the bullfrog face creases into the uneasy grin of someone not quite sure he believes it is happening.

It is a quarter of century since Tony Hancock was in his prime and a generation has grown up to whom he may be no more than a footnote to broadcasting history, like ITMA or Mr Middleton the gardener. Even the original Hancock fans will have had their memories dimmed by the passage of the years and their perception of a comedy modified by more recent shows. To bring him back on video may, therefore, be a risk but on the evidence of the first six of 18 Hancock half-hours being issued over the next few months, not a very serious one. You have only to watch a few minutes of, say, *The Blood Donor*, to realize that Hancock's humour is indestructible, his appeal unlimited by time or setting.

Hancock, the radio and television character, was an amalgam of Hancock the man and the imagination of two brilliant scriptwriters, Ray Galton and Alan Simpson. It was they who seized on the Hancock



Fingered friends: Tony Hancock with Sid James and a vintage shot of Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise in the days before their Christmas shows became as important as the turkey

persona, developed it and gave it its dangerous edge. Behind the comedy there is always the hint of desperation.

Galton and Simpson wrote 161 Hancock scripts - radio and television - between 1954 and 1961, an output extraordinary not only for its quantity but also its quality. Looking at these old shows you come back time and again to the words, the rough poetry of lower middle-class gentility. It can almost be said that the dialogue makes the pictures superfluous. "Are you

insinuating that I'm portly?" demands Hancock during that priceless contretemps in the BBC lift. The choice of language expresses precisely the attempt to stand on dignity, to rise above the riff-raff. Sid James, Hancock's proletarian foil, would never have said "insinuating" or "portly".  
Eric Sykes was an early contributor to *The Goon Show* but the long running television series which he wrote and starred in was humour of a gentler and less subversive kind. It evoked a suburban middle-class

world of crossword solvers, golfing botes and naive vicars, disrupted from time to time by such alien forces as squatters but always regaining its equilibrium.  
In a twist on the usual domestic situation, Sykes and Hattie Jacques played brother and sister. Richard Wattis the pompous neighbour, and Deryck Guyler the local bobby. None of the characters was strongly developed but for two decades the series managed to be unhackneyed, quietly amusing and well judged within its limits.



It is sad there will not be any more Morecambe and Wise Christmas shows to give the lads a chance to hoof it up with such unlikely partners as Vanessa Redgrave and Glenda Jackson. Two-thirds of the world might be starving but the prospect of seeing Angela Rippon's legs was enough to keep a whole nation on tenterhooks.  
The song and dance routines were tangential to the essence and glory of Morecambe and Wise, which was their prowess as cross-talk comics, forever enriching and extending a

well used genre. But it is good to have a video reminder of Glenda and Vanessa and Angela's high kicks and the likes of Frank Bough and Eddie Waring cavorting about in sailor suits. As it happens, the best items on the tape have nothing to do with guest stars. They are the white-tie-and-tails tap routine in which Eric and Ernie find themselves constantly upstaged and eventually swamped by other dancers; and the pair making breakfast to the incongruous strains of *The Stripper*. Say what you like about Max

Bygraves but he is shrewd enough to know who his customers are. "Makes a change from Boy George", he exclaims to the largely middle-aged and elderly who make up his audience for this amiable trip through the pop songs of the pre-punk era. Indeed it does. The cassette is intended "for the many music lovers seeking an alternative entertainment to rock music". Done up in white suit and boater, Max moves effortlessly from Fats Waller to *Knees Up Mother Brown* with a nod towards the Beatles to prove he is not entirely out of sympathy with modern idioms.

The trouble is that one number is treated exactly like the next, producing a bland pure like supermarket Muzak. Who would guess from Max's rendering that *Underneath the Arches* was once described, accurately, as "the theme song of the slump"? The enterprise also cries out for a more intimate setting than a cavernous studio and for a closer rapport between performer and audience.

The producers of *Singalongamax* could have taken a leaf or two out of *The Illustrated Victorian Songbook*, a selection of popular ballads and music hall songs performed by the Aps Daba company from their pub base near King's Cross station. Here is genuine atmosphere and audience involvement; and performed in the word, for this is no perfunctory unrolling of choruses but songs presented in the round, revealing the full possibilities of their comedy and sentiment.

The repertoire ranges from *Beautiful Dreamer* to *Home Sweet Home* and *The Man Who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo*, each given individual treatment by artists of spirit and feeling. It is a pleasure to commend a video made outside the commercial mainstream with a small budget but lots of talent.

## IN THE GARDEN

### Hanging on to the magic of mistletoe

Devil's Fungus, all heal and even bird lime are but some of the common names of mistletoe, *Viscum album*. I'm not sure of their derivation as in this country we now refer to the plant almost exclusively as mistletoe. It belongs to an unusual family, *Loranthaceae*, and although much of the old lore about mistletoe is lost in time, it has long been associated with ancient rites at Christmas time. It is said to have played an important part in the ceremonies of ancient druids and in classical times it was thought to have both magical and medicinal properties.

It also played an important part in German and Norse mythology - it was from an arrow made from the wood of mistletoe that the god Balder was slain. Celts held it in great veneration as well, especially if it grew on oak. It was said to bring happiness and good fortune so long as the branches from the mistletoe did not touch the ground; perhaps this is why we always hang our mistletoe up.

The leaves and berries have been used in many potions by herbalists and were reputed to control heart problems, and circulatory and digestive disorders. Today the berries are known to have harmful effects, but the amount needed to be taken is so great that there is little likelihood of any serious harm coming to anyone eating them.

Mistletoe is to be found most frequently on trees which have a soft, spongy bark, such as apple, some limes and black poplar. It is rare on oak but willow, elm, ash and thorns also act as hosts. Bunches can be quite large and very luxuriant. It is a parasite and although initially there would appear to be little damage to the host, the fact that another plant is drawing nutrient from it will eventually cause some lessening of vigour.

There are about 70 different

species of mistletoe throughout the world, but *Viscum album* is the only form of the genus known in this country. It has at least three distinct strains, which is one of the reasons why it can be very difficult to get it to take on trees of our choice. It is an evergreen and is classed as a shrub; flowers are found in the leaf axils usually with different sexes on different bushes, although sometimes both sexes are found on a single plant. Pale white fruits are produced in the late summer and the single seed is covered with a sticky pulp.

Under normal conditions the mistletoe depends on birds to spread its seed and has no other natural way of propagating itself. Seed-eating birds, and in particular the mistle thrush, love the white fruits. (The common name of the mistle thrush, *Turdus viscivorus*, reflects its dependency on mistletoe.) When a seed is eaten it is either passed through the bird's stomach or rubbed off the beak onto the bark of the tree where the viscous sap around the seed makes it stick.

It is possible to try to propagate mistletoe yourself. Take a handful of fresh berries and rub the seeds into the bark of a suitable host (ideally an old established apple or a black poplar). The seeds should be rubbed into cracks and crevices in the bark on the underside of the branch. They will adhere easily and your hands will become sticky with the sap. The seed sends out a radicle which naturally makes its way into the branch and two plants eventually become as one.

Seed sown in February or March, at the latest, will often take some months to germinate and it takes plants resulting from these seeds at least seven years to bear fruit.

I can but wish that the magical properties of mistletoe work for you this Christmas.

Ashley Stephenson

#### Tender loving care

Plants which are tender need not be short-lived; in fact, many can be made to last for years if they are looked after properly. By this time of year most of these should have been lifted and put in the greenhouse or shed to dry off, ready for winter storage.

Begonias are probably the most tender of the plants that need this

kind of treatment: even a few degrees of frost can seriously damage them.

The first thing to do is to ensure the foliage has dried off as much as possible, then this should be gently eased away from the tuber. Do not be rough; if it is at all hard to remove it should be left a while longer so as to not to damage the stock. Toss away the soil which has remained on the root system, which should have dried as much as the foliage so that, when cleaning is complete, you are left with a bald tuber. These are then ready to be stored. Dahlias and gladioli should be treated in much the same way.

The store must be frost free, but it should be cool and there should be free circulation of air. Although it is not essential to keep out all light, the darker the better. Place a little dry peat in the bottom of a tray before beginning to lay out the root stocks. Gladioli and begonias can be laid out in a layer on the bottom of a shallow tray; they should be as close together as possible without touching. Gently riddle dry peat over the tray allowing the peat to fill the interspaces. Dahlias are much larger and need a bigger, deeper tray. A gentle dusting of lime sulphur is a help if there was any disease while the plants were growing. Inspect regularly over the winter.

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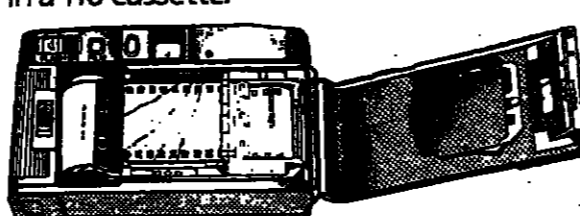
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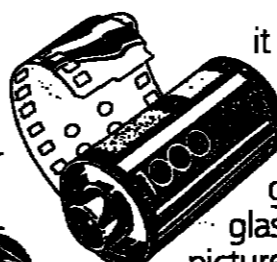
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## THEATRE

## Mystery cycle in medieval style

This Christmas and New Year the National Theatre's presentation of the English medieval mystery plays, which has so far been confined to the *Nativity* and *The Passion*, is completed with a new production of *Doomsday* which takes the story from the Resurrection to the Last Judgement.

It will not last quite as long as the traditional 17 hours from dawn to dusk, but on January 19 all three plays will be performed at the Cottesloe Theatre, and it is the hope of Bill Bryden, the director, that they will be presented together often.

To him they represent simply "the greatest story ever told - in middle English. They are not as sophisticated as Greek drama but are the great English pre-Shakespearean plays".

The three plays are complete in themselves - *The Nativity* covering the time from the creation to the birth of Christ, and *The Passion* taking the story from the crucifixion - but Bryden hopes that people will wish to see them all in sequence.

The National's version, by Tony Harrison, is derived mostly from the York and Wakefield cycles, with bits from the Chester and Coventry cycles. The plays were written and performed by working men in the York cycle, for example, the bakers created the Last Supper and outsmokers the Crucifixion.

They were helped by dra-

matic poets, whose names are not known. One is called the York realist and another the Wakefield master, author of the second shepherd's play featuring Mak the Sheepstealer.

Bryden's production tries to emulate the atmosphere of their medieval performances, where the whole town turned out onto the streets to watch the pageant. So they are given promenade performances at the Cottesloe; the seats have been taken up, and the audience can sit on the floor, wander about or watch from the balcony above.

In the plays the characters are played by modern "craftsmen". The Angel Gabriel is played by a fireman, a boiler-maker plays Abraham, a carpenter appropriately takes the part of Joseph, and God is a miner.

That last interpretation has no specially topical relevance; he was cast as a miner in earlier productions of the plays. (The NCB provided the miners' helmets for this production).

Past experience has shown that the audience and cast mingle easily. "The actors treat them very gently, and they always make way when a path is needed", Bryden says. He wants families to come to the shows, but adds that *The Nativity* is the most suitable for children, and emphasizes the importance of seeing the three parts in correct sequence.

Christopher Warman

The Mysteries, National Theatre (828 2252). Previews of *The Nativity* tonight and Wed at 7.30pm.



Cherished cradle: Dave Hill and Brenda Blethyn in the National Theatre production of *The Nativity*, a medieval mystery play

## In Preview

**GREAT EXPECTATIONS:** Peter Cook directs his adaptation of Charles Dickens' novel, in a joint production by the Church Theatre, Bromley and Birmingham Repertory Theatre. Cast includes Ian McEwan as Pip, Roy Dotrice as Magwitch, Sheila Burrell as Miss Havisham. Old Vic, Waterloo Road, London SE1 (828 7616). Previews from Wed at 7.30pm; Thurs, Fri, Dec 29, 31, Jan 1 at 7.30pm; opens Jan 2 at 7pm. Until Feb 2, Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 7.45pm; matinees Wed and Sat at 2.30pm.

## Openings

**LIVES OF THE GREAT COMPOSERS:** Comedian John Sessions in his latest one-man show, which may or may not include insights into the hitherto secret lives of Schumann, Schubert, Shostakovich and others. Five nights only. Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, Hammersmith, London W6 (748 8554). Opens Thurs at 8pm; Press night Fri 7pm, Dec 29, 30 at 8pm; New Year's Eve Party Dec 31 at 9pm.

## Selected

**FORTY YEARS ON** *Questa* Theatre (734 1166). Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 8pm and 8.15pm; matinee Wed at 3pm. No parts Dec 24, 25, but extra matinee Dec 27 at 2.30pm. *Transferred from Chichester*, Alan Bennett's witty and nostalgic pageant of Britain from the 1900s to the 1980s, rich in wickily funny parodies and presented as a boys' public school play.

**A LITTLE HOTEL ON THE SIDE** *Oliver* (828 2252). Today at 2pm and 7.15pm, Wed at 7.15pm. In repertory.

Uproarious and thanks to John Mortimer's translation surprisingly witty version of the Feydeau farce better known as *Hotel Paradiso*, with Graeme Garden as a spry bourgeois adulterer and Deborah Norton as a marital dragon.

**ON YOUR TOES** *Palace* (437 6834). Mon-Sat at 7.45pm; matinees Thurs and Sat at 2.30pm. No parts Dec 24, 25, but extra matinee Dec 26 at 2.30pm. Galina Panova (with Doran Wells taking over on Wed evenings and Sat matinees) has the lead in this appealing revival of the 1936 Rodgers and Hart musical. Staged by the co-writer and original director, George Abbot, aged 98.

**THE WAY OF THE WORLD** *Haymarket* (830 8632). Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinees Wed at 2.30pm, Sat at 3pm. No parts Dec 24, 25, but extra matinee Dec 27 at 2.30pm. Maggie Smith at her scintillating best heads a starry cast with John Moffat and Joan Plowright especially delightfully in William Gaskill's beautifully staged, though rather bland, production of Congreve's masterpiece.

**WEST SIDE STORY** *Her Majesty's* (890 8606). Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 4.45 and 8pm; matinees Wed at 2.30pm. No part Dec 25. Bernstein's classic 1958 musical, scrupulously and energetically revived with Jerome Robbins's original choreography.

**WILD HONEY** *Lyttelton* (828 2252). Today at 2.30 and 7.45pm, Wed-Fri at 7.45pm. In repertory. Last staged as *Pierrot*, Chelkova's delicate and quirky early comedy emerges as a lovable little masterpiece in its own right, thanks to Michael Frayn's imaginative translation and Christopher Morahan's production with the volatile Ian McKellen at its centre.

## Out of Town

**BRISTOL:** Old Vic, Theatre Royal, King Street (0272 24388). *Peter Pan* by J. M. Barrie. Until Feb 9, Mon-Wed at 7.15pm, Thurs-Sat at 7.45pm; matinees at 2.30pm (days vary). No parts Dec 24, 25, Jan 21, 22, 23, Feb 4, 5. From Jan 14 Mon-Sat at 7pm; matinees at 3pm (days vary).

**New Vic** (0272 24388). *Tomfoolery* by Robin Ray and Cameron Mackintosh. Until Feb 9, Mon-Wed at 7.15pm, Thurs-Sat at 7.45pm; matinees Dec 26, Jan 1, 2 at 3pm. No parts Dec 24, 25, Feb 4. Comedy revue, derived from the writings of US satirist Tom Lehrer.

**LEICESTER:** Haymarket, Belgrave Gate (0533 539 797). *Me and My Girl* by Noel Gay. Until Jan 26, Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 7.30pm, Wed, Fri, Sat at 7.30pm; matinees Wed and Sat at 4.30pm, also on Dec 27, 28 at 4.30pm. The first professional production for 35 years of a musical which had a record-breaking run from 1937, and has since become an amateur company classic.

**LIVERPOOL:** Everyman, Hope Street (051 709 4776). *From a Jack to a King* by Bob Carlton. Until Jan 5, Tues-Sat at 8pm; matinees vary. From the author of *Return of the Prodigal Planet*, another blend of fantasy, Shakespeare (*Macbeth*) and 1950s and '60s rock'n'roll.

**LIVERPOOL:** Playhouse, Williamson Square (051 709 8363). *Hindle Wakes* by Stanley Houghton. Until Jan 19, Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 8pm; matinees Sat at 4pm. A 1911 comedy in which a romantic find leads to pressure "to do the decent thing".

**MANCHESTER:** Royal Exchange, St Ann's Square (061 833 9833). *The Admirable Crichton* by J. M. Barrie. Until Jan 19, Mon and Tues at 7.30pm, Wed-Sat at 8pm.

matinees Wed at 2.30pm, Sat at 4pm. No parts Dec 24, 25, no matinee Dec 26. Comedy of the English class system. With Hugh Quarshie in the title role as the butler.

**OXFORD:** Playhouse (0865 247133). *Way Upstream* by Alan Ayckbourn. Until Jan 12, Mon-Fri at 7.45pm, Sat at 8.15pm; matinees Sat at 4pm (4.30pm Dec 29, Jan 5). No part Dec 25. New production (which will tour) of the bitter comedy set on a cabin cruiser. *The Wind in the Willows*. Until Jan 5, Mon-Fri at 2.30pm, Sat at 11am and 2pm. No part Dec 25. Adaptation of Kenneth Grahame's book, for 8-11-year-olds.

**STRAFORD:** Royal Shakespeare Theatre (0789 295623). *Love's Labour's Lost*. Today and Wed at 7.30pm, Thurs at 1.30pm. In repertory. Barry Kyle directs Edward Petherbridge, Josette Simon, Roger Rees, Kenneth Branagh. *Hamlet*. Today at 1.30pm, Fri at 7.30pm. In repertory. Roger Rees, Brian Blessed, Virginia McKenna, Frances Barber, directed by Ron Daniels. *The Merchant of Venice*. Thurs at 7.30pm. In repertory. Ian Macdonald, Frances Tomelty, directed by John Caird. *Henry V*. Today and Fri at 7.30pm. In repertory. Kenneth Branagh, Brian Blessed, Patricia Routledge, Steven Berkley, directed by Steven Berkley.

*The Other Place* (0789 295623). *The Desert Air* by Nicholas Wright. Today and Wed at 7.30pm. In repertory. A "comedy about war and anger" set in Cairo, 1942. *The Party* by Trevor Griffiths. Fri at 7.30pm. In repertory. Left-wing radicals in London in 1968 debate the possibility of a British insurrection. Camille by Pam Gems. Thurs at 7.30pm. In repertory. A retelling of the Alexandre Dumas *La Dame aux Camélias*.

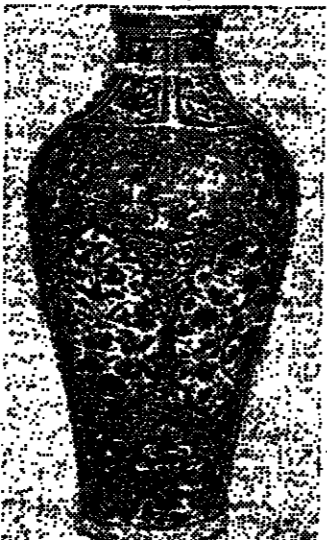
## GALLERIES

## Selected

**LANDSCAPE, MEMORY AND DESIRE** *Serpentine Gallery*, Kensington Gardens, London W2 (402 6057). Today, tomorrow, Thurs, Fri, Dec 29-31 and Jan 2-20, daily 10am-6pm. Works by six painters all schooled in abstraction who have since moved on to more natural expressionism, with landscape as a connecting theme.

**CHINESE ORNAMENT: THE LOTUS AND THE DRAGON** *British Museum*, London WC1 (636 1555). Today, tomorrow, Thurs, Fri, Dec 29-31 and Jan 2-May 5, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-6pm. Fascinating journey through decorative motifs, from ancient Egypt and classical Greece to China. Lotus patterns and acanthus scrolls were appropriated by Chinese porcelain painters to wonderful effect.

**WILLIAM MORRIS** *Graves Art Gallery*, Surrey Street, Sheffield (0742 734761). Today, tomorrow, Thurs, Fri, Dec 29-31 and Jan 2-13, Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm. Celebrating the 150th anniversary of Morris's birth, the exhibition concentrates on his designs for carpets, embroideries, furniture, tapestries, stained glass and also his wallpaper and fabrics.



Gem of a jar: From 14th-century China, at the British Museum

**LOOK! PEOPLE** *National Portrait Gallery*, St Martin's Place, London WC2 (630 1552). Today, tomorrow, Thurs, Fri, Dec 29-31 and Jan 2-13, Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm. An entertaining collection of contemporary portraits; includes timely, sombre images of Yorkshire miners by Michael Martin, and Clive Barker's bronzes of Francis Bacon.

## Photography

**INTERFERENCE** *Hamiltons*, 13 Carlos Place, London W1 (499 9463). Thurs-Jen 9, daily, 10am-6pm. Closed Jan 1. Polaroid photography from Nick Rhodes, of the pop group Duran Duran. Very colourful and vaguely reminiscent of computer-enhanced space shots.

**BALLET PHOTOGRAPHS** *Royal Festival Hall*, South Bank, London SE1 (828 3641). Until Jan 13, daily 10am-10pm. Sensitive ballet pictures by John Austin, a young photographer who is obviously a talent worth watching.

**HENRY GUTHBERT** *Manchester Studios Archive*, Cavendish House, Cavendish Street, Manchester (061 283 6171). Until Jan 25, Mon-Thurs 10am-6pm, Fri 10am-5pm. Street scenes, celebrations and day-to-day life in the Urston district of Manchester, recorded by Henry Guthbert, a butcher and keen amateur photographer.

**SRI LANKA** *Terrace Entrance Foyer*, National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (828 2252). Until Jan 25, Mon-Sat 10am-11pm. Tim Page made his reputation with photographs taken during the Vietnam war. This show presents a more gentle side of his nature.

## DANCE

**FESTIVAL BALLET** *Festival Hall* (828 3181). Boxing day at 7.30pm, then Mon-Sat at 3 and 7.30pm until Jan 2. Tchaikovsky's music and the liveliness of the company make this production of *The Nutcracker* a sure-fire hit even though not everyone is enthusiastic about Ronald Hynd's production.

**ROYAL BALLET** *Covent Garden* (240 1066). Today at 1.30pm, Boxing day at 8pm, Thurs and Friday at 7.30pm; matinee Thurs at 2.30pm. Peter Wright's new production of *The Nutcracker* continues with the debuts of Bryony Brind and Jonathan Cope in the leads (Wed), followed by Karen Paisley and Mark Silver (Thurs matinee). There are also further performances by Lesley Collier and Anthony Dowell (tonight), Fiona Chadwick and Wayne Eagling (Thurs eve), Ravenna Tucker and Jay Jolley (Fri), Gennadi Rozhdestvensky conducts.

**SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET** *Sadler's Wells* (278 8816). Until Jan 5, Mon-Sat (except Dec 24, 25) at 7.30pm, matinees Sat and Dec 28 at 2.30pm. Two popular favourites provide this week's programmes. *Coppelia* runs until Thurs, with different casts at every performance. Fri brings *Le Fille mal gardée* with Marion Tait, Roland Price.

**OPERA NORTH** *Covent Garden*, New Brigate, Leeds (0532 440871/459351). Tonight and Fri at 7.15pm, and Sat 29 at 2.30 pm, the highly acclaimed production of *The Gondoliers*, by Christopher Renshaw, first seen this summer at New Sadler's Wells Opera. Its cast of young singers and G & S veterans is led by Gillian Sullivan and Derek Hammond-Stroud. On Thurs, Opera North's new *Magical Flute*, directed by Graham Vyle, (7.15pm).

**FIGARO IN CROYDON** *Croydon Warehouse Theatre*, 62 Dinglewall Road, Croydon (680 4080). Tony Britten and Nicholas Broadhurst, of the National Theatre's *Gypsies and Dolls*, have set up a workshop to explore the effects of applying the thinking and techniques of contemporary theatre to Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro*. The results can be seen tonight, Thurs and Fri at 7.30pm.

## OPERA

**ROYAL OPERA HOUSE** *Covent Garden*, London WC2 (240 1066). This evening at 7pm and Boxing Day at 2.30 pm brings the Royal Opera's traditional Christmas party, *Fledermaus*. This year it has a strong cast, including Marie McLaughlin as Adele, Barbara Daniels as Rosalinde, Dennis O'Neill as Alfred and Thomas Allen as Von Eisenstein. The conductor is the Venetian operetta specialist, Julius Rudel.

**ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA** *Coliseum*, St Martin's Lane, London, WC1 (636 3161). The new one-off production of Tchaikovsky's *Mazepa*, not seen in England since 1888, is the main attraction this week. Performances flank Christmas, playing tonight and Dec 29, both at 7pm. When the run is over, on Jan 10, the production will not be revived. Malcolm Donnelly takes the title role. One last performance of *Così fan tutte* on Fri at 7pm.

## CONCERTS

**CAROL BUSKERS** *Today*, 2.30pm, Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (589 8212, credit cards 589 9465). A traditional family carol concert is given by the Cambridge Buskers, the Royal College Society and John Birch (organ) with the Fanfare Trumpeters of the Royal Marines School of Music. There is a repeat performance at 7.30pm.

**CHRISTMAS CORELLI** *Today*, 7.30pm, St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (226 6111). The Vivaldi Concerto and Choir weigh in with Corelli's *Christmas Concerto* Op 6 No 8, excerpts from Handel's *Messiah* and *The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba* and Vivaldi's *Gloria*.

**CHRISTMAS GLORY** *Today*, 7.30pm, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (828 8796, credit cards 838 8891). Under the title "The Glory of Christmas" the London Concert Orchestra and London Choral conducted by David Coleman offer Schubert's *Ave Maria*, Gounod's *Ave Maria*, Clark's *Trumpet Voluntary*, Purcell's *Trumpet Tune*, Franck's *Pavane* and the *Pastoral Symphony* from Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*.

**CHRISTMAS CORELLI II** *Today*, 7.30pm, Royal Northern College of Music, 124 Oxford Road, Manchester (061-273 4504). Corelli's *Christmas Concerto* Op 6 No 8 is this time heard from the Manchester Camerata under Nicholas Kraemer, along with Bach's *Suite No 3*, an unspecified Handel concerto grosso and Telemann's exciting *D major Trumpet Concerto* (Michael Laird, soloist).

**NATIONAL CHILDREN** *Today*, 7.45pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Baldevore Road, South Bank,

London SE1 (828 3181, credit cards 828 8800). Conducted by Vivian Price, the National Children's Orchestra undertakes Britten's *Simple Symphony* and, more ambitiously, Berlioz's *Overture to Carnival Romain*, Rimsky-Korsakov's *Introduction and Ballet Procession from Le Czar* and Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*.

**ALL BEETHOVEN** *Wed*, 7.30pm, Barbican Centre. The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra is heard in Beethoven's *Overture Coriolanus* and *Symphony No 3*, the "Eroica". In between, Peter Donohoe is soloist in Piano Concerto No 5, the "Emperor". Lionel Friend conducts.

**JUDD, SHELLEY** *Thurs*, 8pm, Barbican Centre. The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by James Judd in Rossini's *Overture Barber of Seville*, Grieg's *Peer Gynt Suite No 1*, Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No 6*, the "Pathétique". In Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No 2 the soloist is Howard Shelley.

**GUILDHALL STRINGS** *Fri*, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London W1 (833 2141). A colourful programme is presented by the Guildhall String Ensemble with Tchaikovsky's *Souvenir de Florence*, Wolf's *Italian Serenade*, Rossini's *String Sonata No 3* and Mendelssohn's *String Symphony No 9*.

**RIFKIN RAGS** *Fri*, 8pm, Barbican Centre. Pianist Joshua Rifkin plays a programme including *Rifkin Rag*, *Sagittarius*, *The Entertainer*, *Searchlight Rag*, *Roseleaf Rag*, *Wall Street Rag*, *Paragon Rag*, all by Scott Joplin.

## ROCK &amp; JAZZ

**NEIL** *Tonight*, Hammermith Odeon, Queen Caroline Street, London W6 (748 4081). The hippie send-up is good for a chuckle or two, but will it last an entire evening?

**CULTURE CLUB** *Tonight*, Wembley Arena, Empire Way, Wembley, Middlesex (902 1234). What's what in the grooves that counts, as the Motown slogan used to have it. Boy George, who usually knows his Motown lines, seems to have fallen into the trap of thinking that it's what's in the gossip columns.

**AL GREY/BUDDY TATE** *Tonight*, Plaza Express, 10 Dean Street, London W1 (433 8722). Marvellous combination of trombone and tenor saxophone whose Basie-bred mainstream jazz can make everything else sound like junk food.

**NICK KERSHAW** *Tonight*, Queen's Hall, Leeds (0532 431981); tomorrow and Mon, Birmingham Odeon (021 643 6101); Fri to Dec 31, Hammersmith Odeon, Queen Caroline Street, London W6 (748 4081). Junk food - a particularly unexceptionable variety.

**BIG COUNTRY** *Tonight*, Capital Theatre, Aberdeen (0224 583141); tomorrow, Caird Hall, Dundee (0382 281217); Mon, Edinburgh Playhouse (031 557 5580). Christmas at home for these exponents of the guitar-rock renaissance.

**PETER GREENWELL** *Tonight and Mon to Sat*, Plaza on the Park, 11 Knightbridge, London SW1 (235 5550). Now that Steve Ross has moved over to the Ritz, Greenwell is the



Thompson twin: Alannah Hyde Park Corner basement's prime resuscitator of the sophisticated cabaret art of Noel Coward.

**NICK LOWE** *Tomorrow*, Mean Fiddler, 28a High Street, Harlesden, London NW10 (981 5490). An infallible good night out, I'd say, offered by Lowe, Paul Carrack, Martin Belmont and Bobby Irwin, the best human jukebox since Brinsley Schwarz, with a catalogue of classics including Ace's "How Long", Squeeze's "Tempted", and Lowe's "Cruel to be Kind", all of which combine the intimacy of the bedroom Dansette with the raucous glare of the fairground.

**WHAM** *Tomorrow*, Mon, Wed and Thurs, Wembley Arena, Empire Way, Wembley, Middlesex (902 1234). Courtesy: (c) Mark Bower; (d) Charles Douglas-Harris; 2. Biggest earthquake in Britain for 100 years; 3. Fire at York Minister; 4. Sir John Benjamin; 5. Kennedy's Gingham; 6. William Shostakovich's 4th; 7. Arthur Scargill (at the Royal Variety Performance).

**Royal hits** 1. Princess Anne; 2. The Queen; 3. Princess Michael of Kent; 4. Duchess of Kent; 5. Princess of Wales; 6. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother; 7. Princess Alexandra; 8. Princess Margaret; 9. Princess Caroline of Monaco; 10. Princess of Wales.

## FILMS

## Opulent artistry in a feast for the eye

Provided one isn't suffering from a seasonal surfeit of families and bright colours, *The Swing* might be just the answer for those slack days after Christmas.

The German director, Percy Adlon, takes us on a celebratory tour of Munich, some hundred years ago, we revel in the sights, sounds and values of an opulent, bygone world. Waltz music by Johann Strauss fills the ear; the leisurely perambulating camera of Jürgen Martin (a regular Adlon collaborator) captures the beauty of ornate mansions and city landscapes with matching grace.

The story tells of the Lautenschlag family, constantly battling with perilous finances and their own personalities. They argue, they eat, they go to balls, concerts and make merry in various odd ways - gathered giggling round a table, for instance, they search for the sock with the biggest hole.

The film's epic sweep marks quite a change for Adlon, best-known in Britain for his first feature *Celeste* (1981), a crisp and delicate drama about the relationship between Proust and his housekeeper. *Five Last Days* (1982) examined the last hours of a student activist in a Gestapo prison from a similarly intimate perspective. *The Swing* draws on an autobiographical novel of 1934 by Annette Kolb, the subject of one of Adlon's earlier television documentaries. Before making documentaries, Adlon spent the 1960s working in radio on literary programmes and plays (he originally trained as a actor). "On radio", he once said, "I



Family fun: Anja Jaenicke (left), Joachim Bernhard (centre) and Lena Stolze in *The Swing*

was learning to follow the music of literature, and I got my eye for filming in radio, learning to see in my mind the pictures of the text."

Such a background places Adlon some distance away from compatriots like Fassbinder, Herzog and Wenders. "I was never influenced by movies", Adlon admitted in the same interview. "I am not a cineaste, I am a *Künstler* - I see my films as art work."

*The Swing*, however, shows Adlon unbending: an art work it might be, but it is one determined to delight and entertain. **Geoff Brown** *The Swing* (PG) opens in London on Boxing Day for a three-week run at the Hampstead Everyman (01-435 1525).

## Openings

**KINGS AND DESPERATE MEN** (17). Unusual Canadian thriller about a radio talk-show host (Patrick McGowan) held hostage by a radical teacher determined to reopen a controversial manslaughter case. Co-starring Alexis Kanner, who also directs and produces. From Fri at the Classic Oxford Street (638 0310) and ABC Bayswater (229 5620).

## Selected

**GHOSTBUSTERS** (PG) *Odeon Leicester Square* (830 5111). No point looking for finesse in this supernatural spoof from Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd, Harold Ramis and directed by Reitman;

though for a film costing some \$30m, one expects far better special effects. A huge box office success, none the less.

**GREMLINS** (15) *Warner West End* (438 0791). Excusive production Steven Spielberg returns to E.T. territory with the artful story of small, furry, but not entirely lovable creatures running amok in a cosy little town. Directed by Joe Dante (*The Howling*) with a glowing review for nightmare horror.

**DUNE** (PG) *Empire, Leicester Square* (437 1234). David Lynch's expensive, impersonal version of Frank Herbert's science fiction classic about war and intrigue on a desert planet, top-heavy with plots, but visually immaculate. With Kyle MacLachlan, Francesca Annis, and Sting.

# SPRINGSTEEN. JUMPIN' ON THE TV TONIGHT.



From the album of the same name comes a rocking and rolling Whistle Test Special. 'Born In The U.S.A.' is solid Springsteen. So set the video for 7.15pm, BBC2 tonight. Don't miss it. Seeing is believing. Also out now 'Born In The U.S.A.' the album and cassette.

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## Quick quiz answers

**Start** 1. Fre. M. Cooper - men's small bore rifle, three positions. S. Coe - men's 1500m. T. Sanderson - women's javelin. D. Thompson - decathlon. Men's 100m. 2. Secreta. B. Gern. 3. Mighty Fluter. 3. Severn. 4. Charles Walker. 5. David. 6. Steve. 7. 30. 8. 30. 9. 30. 10. 30. 11. 30. 12. 30. 13. 30. 14. 30. 15. 30. 16. 30. 17. 30. 18. 30. 19. 30. 20. 30. 21. 30. 22. 30. 23. 30. 24. 30. 25. 30. 26. 30. 27. 30. 28. 30. 29. 30. 30. 30.

(c) Laurent Fabius; (d) Herbert Bates; 2. Sant Jemal Bhindranvala; 3. Abul Kalam; 4. (a) Raul Alfonsín; (b) Nelson Mandela; (c) Josip Broz Tito; (d) U. Thant; 5. Johannesburg; 6. Mont Louis. **Space** 1. Three Soviet cosmonauts in Soyuz 7. 2. 239 days. 3. Five (three Challenger, two Discovery). 4. Charles Walker. 5. Lead-up to the. **Cine** 1. Arthur Huchingson. 2. Harry

# Christmas television and radio

Here is my critical day-by-day guide to almost 60 films showing during Christmas week. They include television premieres of *Raiders of the Lost Ark* and *Mary Poppins* but the focus is on older classics, with a season of Chaplin and such indestructibles as *The Big Sleep*, *The Third Man* and *Some Like It Hot*.

My star rating system (totally subjective, but I hope of value) is as follows:

●●●● not to be missed

●●● highly recommended

●● well worth a look

An asterisk at the end of an entry indicates that the film is being shown on British television for the first time.

Peter Waymark

## TODAY

### BBC1

#### BREAKHEART PASS (1975)

8.45-9.15pm  
Muddled Alister MacLean adventure-cum-thriller about a murder-strewn train journey across the Rockies in the 1870s. Charles Bronson and Jill Ireland head the passenger list.

#### THE BIG SLEEP (1946) ●●●

11.10pm-1am  
Moody, explosive private eye thriller directed by Howard Hawks from the novel by Raymond Chandler and featuring the unique screen chemistry of Humphrey Bogart and stinky Lauren Bacall.

### BBC2

#### THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA (1958)

2.50-4.15pm  
Ernest Hemingway story, adapted by him for the screen, about an old fisherman (Spencer Tracy) dreaming of the big catch. Heavy going at times, despite James Wong Howe's fine camerawork and an Oscar-winning score by Dimitri Tiomkin, directed by John Sturges, a man more at home with action and spectacle.

#### IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (1947) ●●●

4.15-6.20pm  
James Stewart rescued from suicide by a guardian angel and convinced that his life has been worth living after all. Last, and arguably the best, of Frank Capra's series of small-town comedies - a beguiling mixture of fantasy and sentimentality that hardly puts a frame wrong.

#### BLOOD FROM THE MUMMY'S TOMB (1971) ●

Midnight-1.35pm  
A season of Hammer horrors kicks off with one of the more distinguished examples, about an archaeological expedition which uncovers an Egyptian tomb and wishes it hadn't. Stylish tale of the supernatural directed by the talented, wayward Seth Holt who died during shooting.

### CHANNEL 4

#### HOME AT SEVEN (1952)

2.30-3.30pm  
Ralph Richardson stars with Margaret Leighton in the only film he directed, taken from R. C. Sheriff's play about a bank clerk who loses his memory and thinks he may have committed a murder.

#### THE HOLLY AND THE IVY (1952)

3.35-5.05pm  
Richardson and Leighton again, with Celia Johnson. A Italy filmed but incredibly acted version of Weynand Browne's play in which a country parson has his life changed by family revelations during a Christmas reunion.

#### SKATEBOARD (1977)

11.30pm-12.00am  
After Garfield as a gambler who organizes a skateboard team to pay off his debts. As ephemeral as the craze that inspired it.

## TOMORROW

### BBC1

#### ICE STATION ZEBRA (1968)

3.10-5.30pm  
Rock Hudson, Ernest Borgnine and Patrick McGeehan in a race between the Americans and Russians to recover a vital film capsule from the Arctic Circle. Efficient direction (John Sturges), but too much talk.

#### STEPTOE AND SON (1972)

8.35-10.10pm  
Harold makes a stripper but still cannot get away from Dad in patchy spin-off from the television sitcom. Wilfred Brambell and Harry H. Corbett as the rag-and-bone men locked in family conflict.

### BBC2

#### TORN CURTAIN (1956) ●

10.10pm-12.10am  
Alfred Hitchcock's fifth film, a spy thriller which seems to get better with each viewing. Paul Newman as an American professor apparently about to defect, Julie Andrews the fiancée who refuses to be left behind; neither was happily cast, but typical Hitchcock mischief helps to compensate.

### ITV

#### SCROOGE (1970)

3.15-5.15pm  
Leslie Eriksen's musical version of *A Christmas Carol* fails to take off despite a game performance by Albert Finney as the old miser, and a supporting cast that boasts Alec Guinness and Edith Evans.

### CHANNEL 4

#### THE TALL TARGET (1951)

10.50pm-12.15am  
Dick Powell as a disgraced detective trying to prevent the assassination of President Lincoln on the train carrying him to his inauguration. Suspense thriller, with echoes of *The Lady Vanishes*, tautly directed by Anthony Mann.

## CHRISTMAS EVE

### BBC1

#### THE CRUEL SEA (1952) ●

2.15-4.15pm  
Stiff upper lips to the fore as Jack Hawkins and his men re-fight the battle of the Atlantic. Faithful Ealing production of the Nicholas Monsarrat best-seller about the adventures of a British corvette.

#### ONE OF OUR DINOSAURS IS MISSING (1975) ●

6.55-8.25pm  
Adroit children's comedy from Walt Disney about missing microfilm hidden in a skeleton in the British Museum. Peter Ustinov overacts deliciously as the Chinese intelligence officer hot on the trail.

### BBC2

#### THE GOLD RUSH (1925) ●●●

2.35-3.45pm  
A Chaplin retrospective kicks off with probably his most popular feature, in which the little tramp is prospecting for gold in Alaska. Unforgettable scenes include Charlie eating his boots and the dance of the rolls. Chaplin's voice-over and music were added in 1942.

#### LITTLE WOMEN (1948)

4.45-6.40pm  
Lush, sentimental version of Louisa May Alcott's story of four sisters growing up in the America of the 1850s. June Allyson, Margaret O'Brien, Elizabeth Taylor and Janet Leigh make up the quartet and there is crisp support from Mary Astor.

#### THE QUIET MAN (1952) ●●

10pm-12.10am  
Boisterous, Oscar-laden John Ford comedy set in an Irish never-never-land. John Wayne as an ex-boxer returning to his native Galway to fall in love with Maureen O'Hara and engage in memorable fistfights with Victor McLaglen.

### ITV

#### BENJI (1974)

10.40am-noon  
Likeable family picture in which a stray mongrel dog saves two kidnapped children.

#### THE RETURN OF THE PINK PANTHER (1974)

3.10-5.15pm  
Peter Sellers as the bungling Inspector Clouseau, back on the trail of the stolen diamond. One of the earlier and fresher examples of a series that eventually outstayed its welcome.

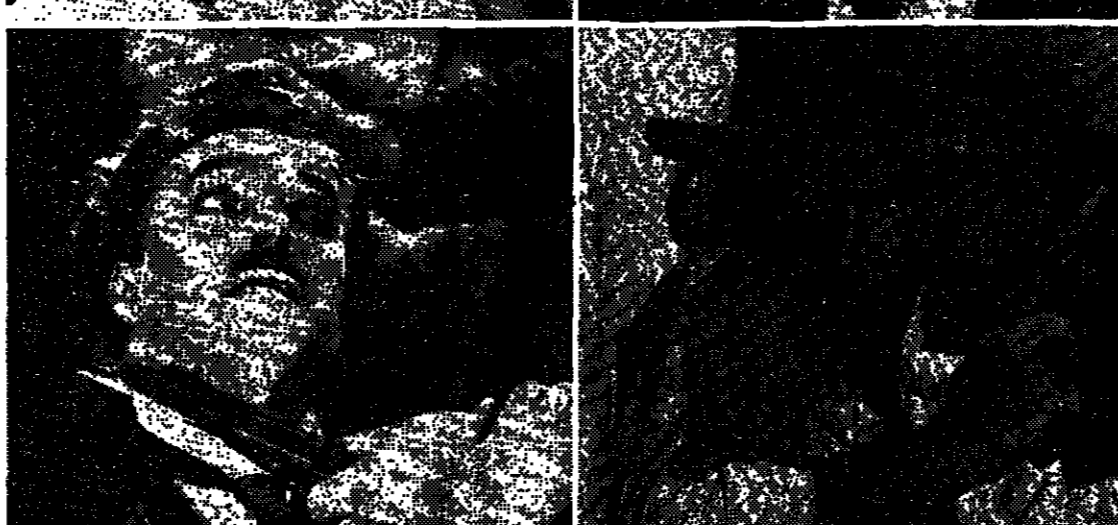
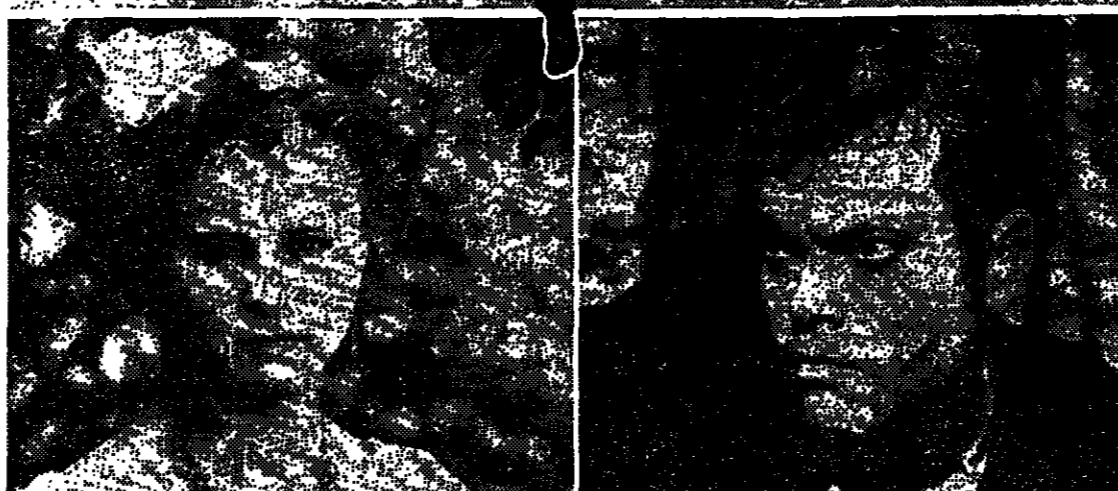
#### FUN WITH DICK AND JANE (1977)

9.10-10.40pm  
True is that the film never quite decides whether it is just fun or a satire on American middle-class life. Sprightly performances from George Segal, a fired aerospace executive who turns to crime, and Jane Fonda as his wife.

### CHANNEL 4

#### A PLACE OF ONE'S OWN (1944) ●

10.55pm-12.40am  
Elegantly crafted Edwardian ghost



Hoofing on the roof: Dick Van Dyke leads the chorus of dancing sweeps in *Mary Poppins* (Christmas Day); Tracey Ullman in *The Young Visitors* (Christmas Day) and Orson Welles in *The Third Man* (Boxing Day); Charlie Chaplin in *The Gold Rush* (Christmas Eve); Harrison Ford in *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (Christmas Day)

story, from a novel by Osbert Silwell.

Margaret Lockwood becomes secretary-companion to an elderly couple (James Mason, Barbara Mullen) in a country house and is possessed by the spirit of a murdered girl.

## CHRISTMAS DAY

### BBC1

#### BLUE MURDER AT ST TRINIAN'S (1957)

12.35-2pm  
Second of the four films based on Ronald Searle's awful schoolgirls. A silly plot about the girls getting involved with a jewel thief in Rome; but rich character playing from Alastair Sim as the headmistress, George Cole as the spiv, and Joyce Grenfell.

#### MARY POPPINS (1964) ●●

3.10-5.25pm  
On television at last, the Walt Disney favourite about a magical Edwardian nanny (Julie Andrews, in her film debut) floating in on her umbrella to take charge of two naughty children. Clever mixture of animation and live action and a cluster of catchy songs.

#### SOME LIKE IT HOT (1959) ●●

10.55pm-12.50am  
Overstretched but intermittently brilliant Billy Wilder comedy of the bootleg era with Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis disguised as girl musicians, and Marilyn Monroe as a real girl musician, on the

run from gangsters. Curtis sends up Cary Grant, George Raft sends up himself; the opening sequence is a gem.

### BBC2

#### LIMELIGHT (1952) ●●●

3.25-5.35pm  
Late Chaplin film in which he plays a fading music hall comic who saves a young ballerina (Claire Bloom) from suicide and finds new meaning in his own life. Indignant but ultimately moving study of an old man's twilight, with a brief but telling routine in which Chaplin and Buster Keaton revive the glories of silent comedy.

#### KAOS (1984) ●●

8.55pm-midnight  
Early television showing for one of this year's cinema plums - the Taviani brothers' exquisite rendering of four stories of Sicilian life by Luigi Pirandello; plus an epilogue.

### ITV

#### THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN GUN (1974)

3.10-5.25pm  
Christopher Lee takes time out from his horror movies to play the suave badgie, Scaramanga, trying to nail James Bond (Roger Moore) with his golden bullets. Acceptable re-hash of familiar 007 ingredients.

#### RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK (1981) ●●

8.30-10.40pm  
Harrison Ford as the archaeologist Indiana Jones in pursuit of Nazi treasure hunters in Steven Spielberg's affectionate homage to the Saturday morning serials. An action packed, sometimes incoherent film, whose writer, Lawrence Kasdan, has since turned director with *Body Heat*.

## THURSDAY

### BBC1

#### THE COURAGE OF LASSIE (1948)

2.20-3.50pm  
The cinema's favourite collie, here confusingly called Lassie, helping to win the Second World War and the heart of its youthful owner, Elizabeth Taylor.

### BBC2

#### THE VALLEY OF GWANGI (1968)

12.45-3.10pm  
Ray Harryhausen's special effects are the highlight of this tall tale of the discovery of prehistoric monsters in a forbidden valley of Mexico.

#### MONSIEUR VERDOUX (1947) ●●●

3.25-5.25pm  
Little seen Chaplin film, which raised an outcry on its first release, in which he plays a modern Bluebeard, marrying and murdering rich women for their money. Critics were shocked by its cynical view of bourgeois morality but it has survived as one of Chaplin's sharpest and most original works.

#### REAP THE WILD WIND (1942)

6-8pm  
Opulent period spectacular from Cecil B. de Mille, a story of love and intrigue on the great sailing ships off the Florida Keys. Stars John Wayne, Ray Milland and a giant squid.

#### THE ADVENTURES OF QUENTIN DURWARD (1955)

8.15-10.55pm  
Spirited romp from Sir Walter Scott's novel set in fifteenth century France with

dashing Robert Taylor falling in love with lovely Ray Kendall; Robert Morley, Marton Goring and Wilfrid Hyde White keep the party going and there is a rousing climax in a bell tower.

#### THE FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (1965)

1.50-4.10pm  
James Stewart, Richard Attenborough and Peter Finch head the star-studded survivors of a crashed plane in the Sahara desert; Hardy Kruger as the young German who may have a way out.

#### ESCAPE TO VICTORY (1981)

6.20-8.10pm  
Michael Caine, Sylvester Stallone and real footballers Peter Roby, Wayne and Chasie Arledge playing soccer against the Germans in a Second World War prison camp. Recreation of a true incident, steadily directed by John Huston.

### BBC 2

#### THE GREAT DICTATOR (1940)

3.05-5.05pm ●●●●  
Chaplin's first full talkie, a searing satire on Adolf Hitler which mixes cynical slapstick and cold anger. Charlie underlines the point by playing both the dictator and a persecuted Jewish barber, and there is a splendid Jewish barber from Jack Oakie. Paulette Goddard (Chaplin's third wife) in appealing support.

#### THE THIRD MAN (1949) ●●●

10.45-12.30am  
One of the most enjoyable of all thrillers, set amid the ruins and racket of post-war Vienna with Joseph Cotten as the writer of hack Westerns searching for his old friend Harry Lime. Orson Welles is the villain oozing charm; original script by Graham Greene; atmospheric direction by Carol Reed; haunting music by the Austrian zither player Anton Karas.

### ITV

#### HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN (1953) ●

10.05am-noon  
Sugary biopic of the Danish story teller, filled by an engaging performance from Danny Keyes and a raft of hummable Frank Loesser songs including *Thumbelina* and *Wonderful Copenhagen*.

#### AIRPLANE! (1980) ●

9.15-10.55pm  
Spirited send-up of the disaster movie in which a former pilot who has lost his controls when the crew is attacked by food poisoning. More pace than fear but some hilarious moments. With Lloyd Bridges and Peter Graves.

## CHANNEL 4

#### THE LIVES OF A BENJAL LANCER (1935) ●

4-6pm  
Gary Cooper and Franchot Tone coming to the rescue of a fellow officer in a stirring tale of the Indian North-West Frontier directed by Henry Hathaway.

#### LA VERITE (1960)

9.45pm-12.10am  
Brightie Bardot on trial for murdering her lover (Sam Freny) in veteran director Henri-Georges Clouzot's intense story of crime and passion; said to be Bardot's favourite film and one of the few that stretched her as an actress.

## FRIDAY

### BBC1

#### THE GOLDEN VOYAGE OF SINBAD (1973)

2.45-4.45pm  
John Philip Law leading his brave band of seafarers through magic and fantasy with the help of striking trick effects from Ray Harryhausen.

#### RYAN'S DAUGHTER (1970) ●

8.45-10pm; 10.05-11.50pm  
Carefully crafted, sumptuously photographed but overlong story of Irish girl Sarah Miles who marries dull schoolteacher Robert Mitchum and has an affair with a shell shocked soldier.

## CHANNEL 4

#### NEVER GIVE A SUCKER AN EVEN BREAK (1941) ●

11.45pm-1pm  
Shambolic and virtually plotless late W. C. Fields vehicle redeemed by a comic tale of the great man's humour, including one-liners like "she drove me to drink, the one thing I'm indebted to her".

#### THE PRIVATE LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1970) ●

10.30pm-12.45am  
Sherlock Holmes (Robert Stephens) compromised by a Russian ballerina and tale of the Rector of Stubbly in Scotland. Billy Wilder's affectionate pastiche had Colin Blakely as Watson.

## WEDNESDAY

### BBC 1

#### THE ADVENTURES OF QUENTIN DURWARD (1955)

8.15-10.55pm  
Spirited romp from Sir Walter Scott's novel set in fifteenth century France with

### ITV

#### THE THIRTY NINE STEPS (1978) ●

9.30-11.55pm  
Third screen adaptation of John Buchan's spy thriller, with Robert Powell as the intrepid adventurer Richard Hannay. Lacks the flair of the 1935 Hitchcock version but closer to Buchan in period and plot and manages a nail biting climax on the face of Big Ben.

#### SOMEbody KILLED HER HUSBAND (1978)

7.30-9.15pm  
Unhappily married Farrah Fawcett-McCann has an affair with toy salesman Jeff Bridges, decides to tell her husband about it but finds he has been bumped off. Routine mystery thriller, trying for a light touch.

## CHANNEL 4

#### OH WHAT A LOVELY WAR (1969) ●●

10pm-12.40pm  
Brave attempt by Richard Attenborough - his first film as director - to translate Joan Littlewood's angry stage musical on the horrors and foibles of the First World War. With a host of stars - Oliver, Gielgud, Redgrave, Richardson - in cameo parts.

## FRIDAY

### BBC1

#### THE BOY WHO TURNED YELLOW (1972)

5.05-6pm  
The last film to date by the celebrated British screen partnership of Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger, a fantasy about a boy's adventures with a visitor from outer space called Nick (short for Electronic).

#### NORTH SEA HJACK (1979)

7.10-8.45pm  
Roger Moore, heavily disguised behind a beard and glasses, foiling a plot to seize a North Sea oil rig. And if you believe that...

#### BRIEF ENCOUNTER (1945) ●●

10.45pm-12.10am  
Railway station romance for housewife Celia Johnson and doctor Trevor Howard in David Lean's careful enlargement of a short play by Noel Coward. Often decided for its emotional restraint but exquisitely played and utterly true to its setting and period.

## BBC2

#### A KING IN NEW YORK (1957) ●

3.25-5.15pm  
Curious late Chaplin film in which he gives vent to the bitterness surrounding his enforced exile from the United States in the early 1950s. Universally savaged by the critics but now that the dust has settled worth another look.

#### THE CURSE OF FRANKENSTEIN (1957) ●

10.05-11.25pm  
A gory re-working of the famous Hammer *Frankenstein* and the film that launched the cycle of Hammer horror. With the suavely chilling Peter Cushing as Baron Frankenstein and Christopher Lee inheriting Boris Karloff's monster.

#### DRACULA (1958) ●

11.25pm-12.50am  
Another offering from the Hammer horror cycle. With the suave Van Helsing, a stylish concoction from an underrated director, Terence Fisher.

## ITV

#### THE GOLDEN VOYAGE OF SINBAD (1973)

2.45-4.45pm  
John Philip Law leading his brave band of seafarers through magic and fantasy with the help of striking trick effects from Ray Harryhausen.

#### RYAN'S DAUGHTER (1970) ●

8.45-10pm; 10.05-11.50pm  
Carefully crafted, sumptuously photographed but overlong story of Irish girl Sarah Miles who marries dull schoolteacher Robert Mitchum and has an affair with a shell shocked soldier.

## CHANNEL 4

#### NEVER GIVE A SUCKER AN EVEN BREAK (1941) ●

11.45pm-1pm  
Shambolic and virtually plotless late W. C. Fields vehicle redeemed by a comic tale of the great man's humour, including one-liners like "she drove me to drink, the one thing I'm indebted to her".

#### THE PRIVATE LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1970) ●

10.30pm-12.45am  
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## THURSDAY

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THE TIMES  
FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

# Ups and downs on the privatization ladder

The Royal Ordnance Factories are to join the conveyor belt to privatization on January 2 when the Defence Ministry announced yesterday, they will start the year trading as Royal Ordnance plc. That date is far too soon for trade union leaders, who have to reach agreements on conditions in the new company and what will happen to 1,500 people made redundant, but it will be none too soon for Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, who is no doubt keen to make his contribution to the privatization drive and knows that it will take Royal Ordnance plc at least 15 months and up to two years to get into a condition that might appeal to the public.

Meanwhile Lord King, who has achieved all this transformation and more at British Airways, finds himself stalled on the runway by the private lawsuits over the demise of Laker Airways overhanging BA's finances. It is not as if Lord King - and indeed the Transport Department - has not pulled out all the stops and cut as many corners as possible to ensure that BA was floated in the present financial year, as Sir Adam Thomson and the US Justice Department can testify. But the multi-million lawsuits remain to ruin Lord King's commitment to a February sale.

The delay should not be too embarrassing for the Treasury. Higher than expected proceeds from the first tranche of British Telecom, plus Enterprise Oil and earlier sales have already more or less filled up the £1.9 billion privatization norm for 1984-85, although the exact numbers depend on how all the costs of the BT issue are charged.

Money market analysts watching the monthly public borrowing figures like hawks will not be so happy. Nor will Lord King. The delay is not merely frustrating. Lord King is understandably anxious not to miss the confluence of booming stock markets and airline markets. The Transport Department remains committed to privatization as early as possible, but the delay could be costly.

For the Treasury, on the other hand, it could be quite convenient. Next year's quota for asset sales is £2.5 billion, though this is not quite the same as privatization targets as some of these show up in state industry external financing balances. The second tranche of British Telecom will provide a strong base, but an extra £500 million net from British Airways would be useful too. Unipart, Short Brothers, National Bus and parts of Rolls-Royce are all lining up.

The first to show, however, could well be some of British Shipbuilders' warship yards. Negotiations are apace at Brooke Marine, and selling memoranda are available for Yarrow and Hall Russell which matches Mr Lawson's calculations. Treasury economists are said to be pulling out every stop, including allocating model adjustments to employment, and yet still falling short of the "proving" that one per cent off real wages produces an extra 200,000 jobs.

A sample of the Bank of England panel's view was provided in the *Quarterly Bulletin*, published yesterday. Professor J. R. Sargent concluded that a range of influences, of which the real wage is only one, is needed to explain employment changes fully. Sir Bryan Hopkin, former government chief economic adviser, sees some link between real wages and international competitiveness, but no generalized "high wage-induced unemployment" concept for the British economy applies.

Both stress the importance of the difference between real wages, as perceived by the worker, and real product wages (money wages plus employment costs like national insurance contributions, divided by an index of value added in money terms), as seen by the employer. The panel's provisional conclusion is that to see real wages cuts as a panacea for high unemployment misses out other, equally important, influences.

A year ago, the Bank's panel caused controversy, and a few red faces among Treasury ministers, by publishing a paper by Hendry and Ericsson, criticizing Dr Milton Friedman's work on the link between the money supply, inflation and growth in Britain. The Bank's academic consultants are ready to resume their thorn-in-the-Treasury-flesh role next month.

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there is an estimated market of one million sets a year. A flourishing black economy apparently belies Turkey's official statistics of per capita income. Margins are satisfactory, says Mr Nadir, despite the 28 to 50 per cent duty on components.

This year's profits will have first-time contributions from consumer electronics and mineral water as well as burgeoning profits from fruit packing. Last year the agricultural side showed profits up 73 per cent on breathtaking 41.7 per cent margins, which were, however, down from 43.6 per cent the previous year.

Last year analysts overestimated Polly Peck's profits because of slippage in the television and water projects. This year they are being strongly urged to err on the side of caution. Even so they are forecasting £80 million pretax profits, which gives a prospective p/e ratio of four on a 35 per cent tax ratio. Mr Nadir does not want to talk much about future projects for fear of being castigated again for being behind schedule. However, a food processing joint venture with Metal Box will get under way this year. The proposed projects with Rascal on defence electronics and Daihatsu to make cars are for a later date.

## Treasury clash with Bank continues

The rift between the Bank of England and the Treasury is set to spill over into 1985. A fine disagreement is brewing over real wages (not a reference to the Old Lady's traditional high salaries).

The Bank's panel of academic consultants has been considering the link between real wages and jobs. So too have the Treasury's economists. A paper will appear from both Bank and Treasury in January and we expect them to come to markedly different conclusions.

The scene was set by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Nigel Lawson, on October 21. In a *Weekend World* interview, Mr Lawson said that if real wage growth had been 3 per cent less over the past year, half a million more people would have been in work. Since then the Treasury has been hard at work trying to support this claim, a task which, it appears, is not easy.

The difficulty is not in proving that there is a link. In the Treasury model, real wage cuts work through to higher employment, principally through the demand-boosting effects of lower inflation on savings. They also alter the balance of advantage between capital and labour. The problem has been producing an effect which matches Mr Lawson's calculations. Treasury economists are said to be pulling out every stop, including allocating model adjustments to employment, and yet still falling short of the "proving" that one per cent off real wages produces an extra 200,000 jobs.

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# Thwarted Reckitt & Colman buys Airwick for £165m

By Alison Eadie

Reckitt & Colman, the mustard to Disprin group headed by Sir James Clesminson, which lost the battle for the Australian company Nicholas Kiwi seven weeks ago, is buying the Airwick Group from Ciba-Geigy for SwFr 500 million (£165 million).

Airwick is a consumer products company best known in Britain for its air fresheners and Gumption household cleaner. Air fresheners account for 30 per cent of its total turnover and household products for more than 70 per cent.

Reckitt had Airwick under consideration when it made its abortive bid for Nicholas Kiwi. As a second best it has strong attractions for Reckitt. It has 38 per cent of its turnover in North America, the geographical region where Reckitt is most keen to expand.

Mr David Clifford company secretary, said Airwick "had the critical mass in North America we have been looking for".

It is also far less likely to lead to monopoly complications than the Australian deal might have. There is some overlap of products - Reckitt makes an air freshener called Haze, but not enough it is felt, to create difficulties.

The price being paid implies an exit p/e of between 25 and 40, which Reckitt admits is high, but says it is not buying past profits. Profits before tax in 1983 were SwFr 29 million. Reckitt believes it can dramatically improve Airwick's profits margins, which are 3 per cent compared with Reckitt's average of about 10 per cent.

Airwick's past profits performance has not been impressive, because it has been part of a chemicals company. Reckitt says. As part of a consumer products group it will be a perfect fit.

Airwick's largest markets outside America are France (15 per cent of turnover), Germany



Sir James Clesminson: plans for US

(15 per cent) and Italy (9 per cent). Reckitt had already identified France and Italy as two countries where it wanted to expand.

The purchase will be paid for out of the proceeds of the £106 million rights issue last Sep-

tember and borrowings to make up the difference. Group net debt at the end of 1983 was £7.2 million.

The Airwick acquisition is considerably cheaper than Nicholas Kiwi would have been. The bidding was pushed up to a \$452 million (£322 million) by the intervention of the American Consolidated Foods Corporation, which eventually won. The Airwick bid will still require the approval of Reckitt shareholders.

Airwick's net assets at the end of December 1984 are forecast to be SwFr 210 million (£69 million) and it has no borrowings other than inter-company loans of SwFr 40 million, already deducted from the net asset figure.

The acquisition will increase Reckitt's household and toiletries business by more than 50 per cent.

## Opec to fix prices next week

From David Young, Geneva

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) has given itself a week to agree on a system of controlling oil output and prices. It hopes to restore world confidence in its ability to stabilize prices and heal several wounds in the organization.

The options available to the 13-member producers' cartel were outlined yesterday to the oil ministers in Geneva.

The ministers will spend the next week explaining proposals for policing Opec agreements to their heads of state and governments in the hope that final approval can be granted next week when the Opec meeting reconvenes in Geneva.

The main proposal put forward by a committee made up of Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates is that an auditing commission should be set up with powers to obtain precise information of members' output and prices being charged.

However, there is strong opposition from some members who claim that such a body would interfere with their sovereign powers to control the development of their main industry and their economies.

For that reason a far-reaching proposal that Opec should set up its own oil sales department through which all output would be channelled to world consumers has been firmly vetoed. The fact that Saudi Arabia seems prepared to go along with an auditing commission may persuade other nations to accept. On the question of sovereign rights to control its oil production, Saudi Arabia has always taken a hard line. For that reason is the only Opec member not to have a firm production quota, acting instead as "swing producer" and moving its output up or down within the overall Opec quota framework.

However, Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi oil minister, said yesterday that he will support the proposed measures to tighten-up Opec discipline.

He said: "Until we can have agreement on how our production quotas are adhered to there is no point in discussing the matter of price differentials."

The price differential issue will also be completed next week in Geneva with a new scale of crude prices being set. The overall Opec benchmark price will remain at \$29, but the price of heavy crudes will rise and the cost of the light crudes, which trade in opposition to North Sea output, will fall.

However, the issues of discipline and prices now being taken to member governments have opened several internal arguments, notably between Iran, whose output is almost entirely light oil, and the conservative Gulf states which can produce both types of crude. Often bitter exchanges between Iran and the Saudi Arabian delegation have clouded this week's meeting and added to the tension within Opec.

## Sterling rallies as exports hit record

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Britain ran a current account surplus of £278 million last month, as exports reached a record level, and trade in manufactured goods returned to surplus. The trade deficit dropped from £888 million in October to £122 million in November.

The figures helped the pound gain 72 points against the dollar to \$1.1735, the sterling index rising 0.2 to 73.2.

Exports rose from £6,254 million in October, itself a record, to £6,450 million in November. Non-oil exports were up 6.5 per cent in volume terms in the September-November period, compared with the previous three months.

Exports of manufactured goods were strong, and overall exports to North America rose 15 per cent in November, supporting the view that the pound's low level against the dollar is emerging as an important factor.

Imports fell sharply, from £7,142 million in October to £6,572 million in November. This was due to the fact that new value added tax regulations were introduced at the ports from November 1, and many importers brought forward imports to avoid them.

In spite of the November fall, non-oil import volume was up by 7 per cent in the September-November period, compared with the previous three months, and 14 per cent on the corresponding period of 1983.

The surplus on oil trade was £424 million in November, compared with £388 million in October. The monthly surplus has been halved during the coal strike.

The cumulative January-November current account deficit is £181 million, compared with a Treasury autumn statement forecast of zero for the full year.

## Big majority opposed to Price Waterhouse merger

By Ian Griffiths

The rejection by partners in Price Waterhouse's British practice of the proposed merger with Deloitte Haskins and Sells was more comprehensive than has previously been envisaged.

It is understood that up to 80 per cent of PW's partners in the United Kingdom voted against the merger, thus vetoing the creation of the biggest accountancy firm in the world.

While neither firm can officially confirm figures, the majority against the merger must have been substantial since the announcement of the outcome was made so promptly.

Had voting been close, both firms had the facility to return to dissenting partners to try to convince them to give their support to obtain the 75 per cent majority required from the four main countries, the United Kingdom, the United States,

Australia and Canada, for the merger to go ahead.

When details of merger talks between the two firms first emerged it was assumed that resistance would come mainly from Deloitte and in particular the British practice where the two firms are more equally positioned than elsewhere.

As *The Times* revealed on Thursday, the initial proposals from Price Waterhouse amounted to little more than a takeover. Deloitte then offered counter proposals which would have resulted in a genuine merger of equals which PW's policy team accepted.

While these new proposals won the backing of all Deloitte's key partnerships throughout the world it proved impossible for the PW leadership in the United Kingdom to generate enough support for the deal.

## Japanese prefer foreign cars

By John Lawless

Japanese motorists have done a U-turn and are now said to prefer foreign cars. A survey of Japanese consumer taste by the Hakuhodo Institute of Life and Living - just published by the Japan External Trade Organisation (Jetro) - says: "Youth had the greater desire for imports as a whole." But it immediately added: "Cars were among the most desired items for all ages."

That news will come as a surprise to the likes of BL who, until recently, faced the sort of tough testing for imported cars which formed a hidden trade barrier to imports. Japanese consumers were encouraged to want domestically-produced models and were happy to own them - but the survey suggests that vehicles from abroad have now regained the snob appeal they had more than a decade ago. However, Japanese car makers are still outselling their British competitors in the two-way trade in road vehicles by almost 60 to one.

British sales to Japan were worth just £12.7 million in the first nine months of this year, with vehicles ranking as our 19th best export. For Japan, vehicle exports to Britain were worth £725 million in that period - almost £300 million ahead of that country's second biggest selling item, telecommunications and sound equipment.

Two-way business between the two countries topped £3.5 billion between January and September, but the year is certain to close with a Japanese trade surplus worth much more than that. British sales have risen by 15.1 per cent, about four per cent more than imports from Japan.

## Commercial loan for IFC

The International Finance Corporation, the private enterprise funding arm of the World Bank, has made its first borrowing in the commercial market. The success of the operation is likely to encourage further tapping of private investors and underlines the trend within the Bank to more external financing from unofficial sources.

The IFC has borrowed \$50 million by issuing 10-year notes carrying a coupon of 10.4 per cent offered at par. The notes have been placed privately with European investors by Nomura International in London, the Japanese securities house.

In June the IFC announced that it would double its capital over the next five years to \$1,300 million (£1,120 million). The IFC previously obtained nearly all its funds from the World Bank, but political opposition to extra resources for the Bank, particularly from the United States, had driven the IFC into the private market.

The \$50m will be used for general lending by IFC. Earlier in the year the IFC laid down its priorities as being energy exploitation in the Third World, encouraging entrepreneurship in sub-Saharan Africa, and re-capitalising companies in Latin America.

## £12.3m takeover

Aiken Hume, the financial services group, made an agreed £12.3 million bid for the shares it does not already own in Whittington International, a property group. The terms are for two Aiken shares for every 11 Whittington, valuing Whittington shares at 25.5p. Aiken and its associates own about 14 per cent and have promises of acceptance from 38.2 per cent of the equity. The group installed new management in Whittington two years ago. Whittington's shares firmed to 23p last night, while Aiken's price eased 5p to 136p.

## Dutch deal

British Land and its Dutch partner, Wereldhave, have let the 500,000 sq ft De Bogaard centre in Rijswijk, near The Hague, to the Dutch government building service on a new 12-year lease with no break clauses. British Land and Wereldhave recently bought the British and Belgian property portfolios of The Rank Organisation for a total of £57.5 million.

## BHP higher

Broken Hill Proprietary, Australia's biggest company, raised its interim net operating profits to AS\$41m (\$244m) from AS\$28.2m. The dividend is 25 cents, compared with 20 cents. But BHP says that increased competition in all sectors will make it difficult to maintain this level of profitability. Utah, the coal operation bought from General Electric, earned \$662m. Utah made no contribution in the first half of last year.

## TSI purchase

Television Services International, a USM-quoted film and video production company, is paying £2.1 million for the Los Angeles London video production group Molinare, which states it is under-capitalized and continuing to incur losses.

## Espley chief dismissed

Espley Trust, the Midlands property group, has sacked Mr Ron Shuck, the managing director, and threatened legal action after an investigation into £3 million of land bought in Scotland. Mr Shuck, who has been suspended since October, was running the company when the deal was done.

Espley's chairman, "company doctor" Mr Ronnie Aiken said yesterday the board had taken advice of leading counsel and had instructed its solicitors to "institute proceedings against Mr Shuck and others".

The Scottish deal was done partly in cash and partly through a share placing. Mr Shuck's solicitor, Mr Cyril Alfille, said he could not comment on the statement from Espley "at this stage". Espley shares were unchanged in the stock market at 13p.

## MARKET SUMMARY

| STOCK MARKETS      |                    | MAIN PRICE CHANGES   |               | CURRENCIES            |  |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|--|
| FT Ind Ord         | 824.50 (-0.01)     | RIBS:                |               | London:               |  |
| FT-A All Share     | N/A                | Assam Doers          | £10.25 +25    | E: \$1.1735 (+0.0072) |  |
| FT Govt Securities | 81.9 (+0.02)       | Western Doers        | 750 +347      | DM: 3.5535 (+0.0190)  |  |
| FT-SE 100          | 1024.7 (-2.5)      | Howard & Wyndham N/V | 41 1/2        | SwFr: 3.0125 (+0.02)  |  |
| Bergains           | 22.518             | Williamson Tea       | 512 +82       | E: ¥11.850 (+0.010)   |  |
| Dataseam USM       | 103.39 (-0.99)     | SelcoTV              | 13 +2         | Yen 230.75 (+1.50)    |  |
| New York           | 1197.65 (-5.83)    | Sonoma Hlids         | 24 +5         | E Index: 73.2 (+0.2)  |  |
| Dow Jones          | 1197.65 (-5.83)    | Asa Hotels           | 24 +5         | New York:             |  |
| Tokyo              | 11,474.81 (-39.84) | C.H. Bailey          | 31 1/2 +2 1/2 | E: \$1.1740           |  |
| Hong Kong          | 11,474.81 (-39.84) | Layland Platts       | 31 1/2 +3 1/2 | S: \$1.1150           |  |
| Hang Seng          | 1198.59 (+14.17)   | Perine Res           | 31 +3         | S Index: 143.5 (+0.1) |  |
| Amsterdam          | 181.0 (+0.3)       | Sabina               | 29 +3         |                       |  |
| Sidney: AO         | 718.7 (+2.2)       | J. Blinn             | 81 +8         |                       |  |
| Frankfurt          |                    | Coronation Syn       | 44 +4         |                       |  |
| Commerzbank        | 1083.0 (+1.9)      |                      |               |                       |  |
| Brussels           | 157.50 (+0.25)     | FALLS:               |               |                       |  |
| General            | 180.8 (-0.4)       | Barbican Hlids       | 31 1/2 -1 1/2 |                       |  |
| Paris: CAC         |                    | Rotaprint            | 51 1/2 -1 1/2 |                       |  |
|                    |                    | MJ Corp              | 9 -2          |                       |  |
|                    |                    | Bargat               | 11 -2         |                       |  |
|                    |                    | Inter Pats           | 130 -18       |                       |  |
|                    |                    | Intervision ord      | 9 -1          |                       |  |
|                    |                    | ERF (Hlids)          | 37 -4         |                       |  |
|                    |                    | Resource Tech        | 47 -5         |                       |  |
|                    |                    | Bula Res             | 10 -1         |                       |  |
|                    |                    | Eginton              | 20 -2         |                       |  |
|                    |                    | Am Oil Field         | 20 -2         |                       |  |
|                    |                    | Oliver Pros & Ming   | 175 -15       |                       |  |
|                    |                    |                      |               |                       |  |

# NEW from Nationwide FleetBond

## A UNIQUE SAVINGS PLAN WITH IMMEDIATE LIFE COVER

The new FleetBond from Nationwide is a 10 year savings plan with special tax advantages. Produced in conjunction with Fleet Friendly Society and Midland Bank Group Unit Trust Managers Limited, the special taxation advantages and immediate life cover of the FleetBond make it a most attractive investment.

### How FleetBond Works

The Nationwide FleetBond is a unique savings plan. Half your savings go into a special Nationwide account and the balance is used to buy units in Midland Bank's Income Unit Trust. The Friendly Society link means that 50% of the tax normally paid on building society unit trust interest is reclaimed, giving you savings a valuable boost. No other savings plan offers the same two-way investment as the FleetBond.

### Life Insurance Cover

FleetBond automatically provides life insurance cover up to a total sum of £1500 for those aged 56 or under. There is a small reduction in death benefit for older ages. No medical examination is required.

### The Likely Return

If FleetBond had been available since

1974 then they would have produced a return of over 15% per annum.

### How Much

The FleetBond is a ten year investment in which you save £200 per year. FleetBond gives you the choice of saving annually or from a lump sum of £2000 into a Nationwide account which, in turn, is used to make the yearly FleetBond contributions.

### The Next Step

You can obtain full details of FleetBond by completing the coupon or alternatively by telephoning 01-834 9090 any day, any time and we will send you a brochure.

Please note: anyone can open a FleetBond provided they are between the ages of 18 and 69, but you may not hold a FleetBond if you already have a similar policy issued by a Friendly Society.

To: Nationwide Building Society, Prepost, London WC1V 6XA  
Please send me details of the Nationwide FleetBond

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel No. \_\_\_\_\_

In conjunction with Midland Bank Unit Trusts

FLEET FRIENDLY SOCIETY

Phone 01-834 9090 for details ANY DAY - ANY TIME.

FT 22



## Tea is the toast as index falters

Mr Fox's move is seen by some as indicating a re-rating of the entire tea sector. With such thoughts in mind the shares of Eastern Produce and Camellia itself moved ahead.

Away from the brew-up in tea plantation shares, the stock market finished its Christmas run-up account on a flat note.

So shares ended what was a record breaking account looking breathless and uncertain. But trading was exceedingly thin. Many market men still expect the FT 30 share index to break through the 1,000 points mark within the first few months of next year.

John Waddington slid 10p lower to 470p, still trying to find a stable trading level after the collapse recently of the bid from Mr Robert Maxwell, and the subsequent sell-off of his 23 per cent stake.

Burmah tried to resist the trend and fell just 1p to 217p as City hopes of a takeover bid for the oil and industrial group linger.

Shares in James Neill Holdings jumped 11p to 136p as Mr Christopher Moran announced that he has 2.26 per cent of the Sheffield-based steel company. Mr Moran also has 11 per cent of Suter, which in turn now holds a further 11.99 per cent of James Neill.

At Fairline Boats, chairman and managing director Mr Sam Newington added another 20,000 shares to his own 928,090 holding, and the price responded with a 3p rise to 53p. Mr Newington and his family controls nearly 70 per cent of the shares.

## How the Bank organized the gilt market in 1984

The Bank faced a specific problem over British Telecom. It needed a stable equity market, and reasonable yield hopes, to get the corporate monster airborne. By definition, therefore, the Bank was obliged to pummel the gilt market into a reasonable state of optimism.

Reserves barely changed throughout the year. Perhaps the frequent issue of Fofra stocks—free of tax to overseas residents—may have helped. In broad terms, this was the first time such stocks had been issued since 1977.

Thereafter, and until the BT flotation on November 28, relations between the authorities and the market changed. The Bank massaged interest rates down again, and gilts enjoyed an 11-point rally. Mr. Jim Goodey, of County Bank, points out that this was the best and perhaps only time in the whole year, when the professionals could make some money. The Americans helped by easing their tough monetary selection ahead of the presidential

By degrees, however, it became clear that the authorities' way out of their policy contradictions would be achieved via depreciation of the currency. Sterling sagged about eight points on the trade-weighted after May

The authorities stepped up their sales of index-linked stock, neglected at the start of the year, as inflation hopes were high. Nevertheless, real returns kept rising. Plainly, the authorities succeeded in their task only with the tacit consent of the market, after the mid-summer collapse.

The scale of the effort involved in holding the markets together before BT explains the subsequent collapse. It also justifies the Bank's circumspection over Johnson Matthey - a run on the banks would have been lethal before the flotation - and goes some way towards rationalizing the growth in the bill mountain, up over the year by £3 billion. This is the balancing item for all the paper deals elsewhere.

But just as Johnson Matthey has damaged the Bank in the public's eyes, so too has the growth in the bill mountain driven the authorities far closer for comfort to the clearers. Perhaps 1985 will reveal how the Old Lady extricated herself from these dangers.

[illegible]

**THE ACCOUNT THAT  
EARNS YOU A GUARANTEED  
6% P.A. TAX-FREE.**

During 1985 the National Savings Ordinary Account is offering a guaranteed interest rate of 6% p.a. on balances maintained at £500 or more. Whatever happens to other interest rates, this one will not change in the coming year.

The first £70 a year of interest is free of all UK Income Tax and Capital Gains Tax.

For example, if you deposit £1,167 before the end of December 1984 and keep it in for the whole of 1985, you will earn the full tax-free benefit of £70. Husbands and wives are each entitled to this amount of tax exemption.

You get a guaranteed rate of interest and ready access to your money. To earn the guaranteed rate of 6% keep at least £500 invested from 31 December 1984 to 1 January 1986. Additional deposits will also earn the 6% rate for each whole month of 1985 that the money is earning interest. (Balances of less than £500 will earn 3%.)

Act by 31 December. You can open a National Savings Ordinary Account at the post office. If you pay by cheque, make it out to "The Post Office."

And don't forget, to earn the guaranteed rate of 6% for the whole of 1985, you must act before the end of December 1984.

# Hotel Peninsula\*

MANDURAH  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The map shows the Mandurah Peninsula in Western Australia. The Indian Ocean is to the west and south. Peel Inlet is on the western side. The Public Marina Development is a large area in the center. The Public Area is a smaller area to the east of the marina. A small island is visible in the southern part of the peninsula.

INDIAN OCEAN

PEEL INLET

PUBLIC MARINA DEVELOPMENT

PUBLIC AREA

CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT


**INVITATION TO REGISTER INTEREST**

for the development of  
**HOLIDAY RESORT AND HOTEL**

Proposals are required for the development of this unique site on the basis of a long term ground lease.

To register interest and for further details contact:

**CITIWEST**  
Management Services Pty Ltd.  
9 Bowman Street, South Perth, Western Australia, 6151  
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earn  
%

THE TIMES  
*Portfolio*

| DAILY<br>DIVIDEND<br>£2,000          | WEEKLY<br>DIVIDEND<br>£40,000         |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Claims required<br>for<br>+31 points | Claims required<br>for<br>+124 points |

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| PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERTG |     |          |    |  |    |    |     |  |  |
|--------------------------|-----|----------|----|--|----|----|-----|--|--|
| 71                       | 71  | Adco Inc | 26 |  | 71 | 12 | 65  |  |  |
| 72                       | 72  | Adco Inc | 26 |  | 71 | 25 | 115 |  |  |
| 73                       | 73  | Adco Inc | 26 |  | 71 | 25 | 115 |  |  |
| 74                       | 74  | Adco Inc | 26 |  | 71 | 25 | 115 |  |  |
| 75                       | 75  | Adco Inc | 26 |  | 71 | 25 | 115 |  |  |
| 76                       | 76  | Adco Inc | 26 |  | 71 | 25 | 115 |  |  |
| 77                       | 77  | Adco Inc | 26 |  | 71 | 25 | 115 |  |  |
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| 95                       | 95  | Adco Inc | 26 |  | 71 | 25 | 115 |  |  |
| 96                       | 96  | Adco Inc | 26 |  | 71 | 25 | 115 |  |  |
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| 98                       | 98  | Adco Inc | 26 |  | 71 | 25 | 115 |  |  |
| 99                       | 99  | Adco Inc | 26 |  | 71 | 25 | 115 |  |  |
| 100                      | 100 | Adco Inc | 26 |  | 71 | 25 | 115 |  |  |

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| 37  | Alfred Lan | 108 | 22 | 15.0 |
| 38  | Apex       | 108 | 22 | 15.0 |
| 39  | Aspen      | 108 | 22 | 15.0 |
| 40  | Baker      | 108 | 22 | 15.0 |
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| Line | Description | Amount | Balance |
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## TEXTILES

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| 285 | Alford Text | 292 | • | 183 | 24 | 184 | 22 |
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1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 277: 1005-1006, 1997.

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## FAMILY MONEY edited by Lorna Bourke

## BOOKS

## Pick of finance guides

One of the standard letters which every editor of a family finance page receives from time to time is: "Can you please recommend some good books on money/investment/tax/insurance, and the like?"

So, killing two birds with one stone, here is my selection which can also double as presents.

Top of the list must be the *Hambro Tax Guide* (Oyez Longman £12.20), the most constantly referred to book, easy to understand, comprehensive and concise.

For a readable and general view of personal finance you can't beat the 1984-5 edition of the *Which Book of Money* (Consumers' Association, £12.95) which covers everything from appealing against your rates to buying a house and insuring your life.

The third choice will cost you nothing at all as it is available free from National Savings. Called *Investing in National Savings*, it contains everything you could possibly want to know about the terms and conditions of all the National Savings securities on offer, as well as the information on back issues of National Savings certificates.

If you have ever had to help an elderly person with his finances then you could probably do with a copy of *National Welfare Benefits Handbook* (Child Poverty Action Group £3.50), which gives details of supplementary benefit, family income supplement, health benefits, housing and education benefits, and its sister publication, *Rights Guide to Non-Means-Tested Social Security Benefits* (Child Poverty Action Group £3.50).

Finally, with pensions so much in everyone's mind, the *Allied Hambro Pensions Guide* (Oyez Longman £11.95) is a comprehensive review of self-employed and occupational pensions schemes.

## TSB

## Bargain buy in the high street

Our advice not to delay opening an account with the TSB (*Family Money* December 1) could not have been more timely, with the TSB announcing this week the cut-off date of December 17 for eligibility for any preferential share offer.

A stake in the TSB could be well worth having. Since the TSBs have no share capital, every £1 subscribed in the offer for sale will go straight into the bank's coffers and improve its asset backing by the same amount. Which means whatever the flotation price, you will effectively be buying the shares at a discount.

On top of that, TSB has no exposure to foreign loans, is substantially underwritten by comparison with the other high street banks and has the security of its long-standing savings and deposit base on which to build new business.

Add to this its friendlier image, huge network of 1,600 branches and 6 million personal account customers, and you have the basis of a highly profitable business. Definitely a share to go for.

## Children's bonus

More than 5,000 children have taken advantage of Yorkshire Building Society's offer of a £2.50 cash bonus when the balance in the account reaches £50.

Yorkshire's philosophy is to give cash bonuses rather than offer gimmicks and its Future Key Account is designed to give children an incentive to save. When he opens an account the child (who has to be under 16) receives a special passbook containing the £2.50 vouchers which can be claimed when the balance reaches £50, £100, £250 and £500.

Some 7,000 accounts have been opened since Future Key was launched in the summer and, of these 7,000 children, more than 5,000 have already qualified for at least one bonus voucher.

Future Key currently pays the standard building society ordinary share account rate of 8.75 per cent.

Details from Yorkshire Building Society, PO Box 66, Yorkshire House, Westgate, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD1 2AU. Tel: (0274) 738422.

## Medical cover

A surprisingly large proportion of holidaymakers still go abroad without taking medical insurance. Yet even a minor accident can cost you several thousand pounds if you need hospital treatment.

TR Automobile Association's Travellers policy offers comprehensive

benefits at a reasonable cost and it has just been revamped to provide up to £1 million worth of medical insurance.

Up to 17 days' cover worldwide works out at £23.10 per person with the cost, reducing substantially for European travellers, down to £10.35.

Personal belongings are covered for up to £1,000, cancellation up to £2,000, money up to £250 and personal liability up to £250,000. There is also a 25 per cent discount for children aged from three to 14 accompanied by an insured adult and the under-thirties are covered free. Full details from AA centres throughout the country.

## Loans in store

Next time you nip into British Home Stores keep your eye open for the Anglia Building Society/Boston Trust and Savings in store financial centre. While you are buying your handkerchiefs you can fix up a home loan with the Anglia or obtain a personal loan from Boston Trust & Savings for a new car.

The first of these new financial centres is scheduled to open in the spring with a total of seven test locations being planned by the end of 1985. Mr Tony Stoughton-Harris, chief general manager of the Anglia, said: "British Home Stores is exploring new frontiers in retailing by introducing financial centres into their stores. Anglia, itself in the retailing business, will be taking full advantage of this opportunity to join with Boston and BHS in this venture."



Don't let the beard fool you, I'm not due for retirement until 1995

## Shares warning

A caution to all British Telecom shareholders planning to sell their shares through one of the high street banks: it may cost more than you expect. The brokerage fee on selling BT shares through a bank is the same as selling through a stockbroker, but some banks add a handling charge.

One of our readers told us that when he used Midland to sell his shares he was charged an extra £5 plus 75p VAT as a transaction charge. He understood from Midland that the charge had been introduced in September. But Midland

told us that the handling charge was entirely at the branch manager's discretion.

Barclays also charges for share dealings: £5 plus VAT on all deals of less than £1,500. NatWest charges on share deals, but it has made an exception for BT shares and is not charging on them.

Clearly, before selling your shares through your bank it pays to check on their charges first - or change banks.

## Liquidation agreed

Investors in the failed licensed deposit taker, Eastcheap Investments Limited, who have nearly £1 million at risk, heard this week that the company is to be formally wound up. At a court hearing on Tuesday an application to liquidate the company was approved and there will be a creditors' meeting in February.

Some £300,000 of investors' money is at stake with an estimated £200,000 owed to other creditors. Most of the money on deposit seems to have been lent to property and finance companies and it may take a considerable time for the liquidator to realize these assets.

Meanwhile, one of the investors stands to lose £126,000, the entire sale proceeds of the family home.

## Aid for Band Aid

Unsolicited donations totalling £5,000 have been received by Stoy Hayward, accountants to the trustees behind the

chart-topping Band Aid charity record "Do They Know It's Christmas?" The biggest single donation of £4,000 was raised by Swanwick Hall Comprehensive School in Derbyshire. The rest came from individual members of the public. Stoy Hayward is joining the many artists, record producers, dealers and others by giving its services free.

## Bargain of '84

Investment bargain of the year must be the National Savings Yearly Plan - on offer at all post offices and still paying the princely return of 9.06 per cent tax-free over the five-year term. The appeal of this scheme is that, like savings certificates, the interest paid does not vary after you have joined. The yearly plan is a 12-month savings scheme, at the end of which your cash is turned into a four-year savings certificate. The overall return on the maximum investment of £100 a month is £1,781 for an investment of £1,200. Details from post offices.

## Free offer at Lloyds

Lloyds Bank has joined the Midland and Barclays in offering free banking for retired customers who keep their account in credit. The new terms are effective immediately and apply to joint accounts where one account holder is retired. Eligible customers should apply to their branch manager.

## Women at work

Do you feel that you are being denied promotion at work because you are a woman? Women in Business is the title of a three-day conference being organized by Management Centre Europe at the Portman Hotel, London, from May 9 to 10. "The conference has been created to examine the additional challenges and obstacles that women face in the increasingly competitive business environment," says the promotional literature.

The conference which will be held under the chairmanship of Mrs Audrey Slaughter, editor and founder of the new magazine *Working Woman*, costs £320 for the three days including meals and accommodation plus £50.00 Belgian francs (£7.46) for the participation fee. Details from Management Centre Europe, Rue Caroly 15, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium. Tel: 32-2-518-19-11.

## Savers' club

Woolwich For Kids account - with automatic club membership - aims to provide the under-12s with an introduction to saving together with a free magazine, stamp album and stamps and a birthday card each year. It could be a good idea if you have run out of Christmas present ideas. Gift cheques are also available from Woolwich branches.

## The Christmas Money Quiz



When the last television repeat of an old movie has been turned off, you might fancy a little light intellectual stimulation in the form of a Money Quiz. LAWRENCE LEVER has scoured back issues of *Family Money* and come up with some real teasers - just the thing to stop the brain cells atrophying after the Christmas port.

1. What is LAPR and what happened to it in the Budget?
2. What did the Royal Mint stop producing on March 29, this year?
3. What do James Haswell and Anthony Barrowclough QC have in common?
4. Launched in November, it was the first BES-funded art gallery. What is it called?
5. Two reductions from 75 per cent to 60 per cent followed as a consequence of this year's Budget. What were they?
6. Which late comedian's wife challenged his will in the High Court in May?
7. Vantage, Budget and Excel have what in common?
8. Why did travelling cause the National Union of Students much anxiety?
9. Which bank guarantee was reduced by the Government from 80 per cent to 70 per cent this year?
10. What set brokers' telephones a-ringing with a massive premium?
11. Which American company offers its shareholders 10 per cent off its hotel bills?
12. What was launched on August 8, offering 9 per cent?
13. Why did a house in Streatham, London, cost only £500?
14. Who pays interest gross but will shortly be paying net?
15. What might DZ 80 9999 be?
16. Who lost her American Express card while hanging upside down?
17. Which credit card company recently introduced a scheme to



Is he reliving his childhood?

cover holiday collapses but did not plug the gap?

18. Which building society launched a property service promising reductions in estate agents' commission?

19. What tax did some astute solicitors manage to save homeowners?

20. Which building society's perk was a snip at the price and a cut above those of its rivals?

21. Which insurance company changed its mind after criticism in *The Times* Family Money section?

22. What do DAS, Hambro Housley and IRPC have in common?

23. Why was June 1 a special date for many homeowners?

24. Who invested £70,000 and lost it all within 11 months?

## FAMILY MONEY MARKET

## Banks

Current account - no interest paid. Deposit - interest seven days notice required for withdrawals. Barclays 6.5 per cent, Lloyds and NatWest 6.25 per cent, Midland 6 per cent, National Girobank 7 per cent. "Lloyds extra interest 9.5 per cent. NatWest 8.25 per cent. Fixed term deposits £10,000-£24,999, 1 month 9 per cent, 3 months 9 per cent, 6 months 8.75 per cent. Rates quoted by National Westminster. Other banks may differ.

## MONEY FUNDS

First APR Telephone  
Aldian Home 9.25 9.55 01 538 6070  
B of Scotland 9.25 9.55 01 538 8050  
Barrat's 9.0 9.31 01 538 2777

## Openrunner Money

Management Account S&P 8.75 9.04 01 236 9382  
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## National Savings Income Bond

Min. investment £2,000 - max. £250,000. Interest - 12.75 per cent variable at six weeks notice reducing to 12 per cent from 2nd January - paid monthly without deduction of tax. Repayment at 3 months notice. Penalties in first year.

## National Savings Certificates

29th issue. Return totally free of income and capital gains tax, equivalent to an annual interest rate over the five-year term of 8 per cent, maximum investment £5,000.

## National Savings Yearly Plan

A one year regular savings plan converting into four-year savings certificates. Minimum £20. Maximum £100 a month. Return over five years 9.06 per cent - tax free.

## Guaranteed Income Bonds

Return paid net of basic rate tax, higher rate taxpayers may have a further liability on maturity.

## 2 years Capital Life 7.75 per cent

3 years New Direction Finance 8.3 per cent. 4 years New Direction Finance 8.5 per cent. 5 years New Direction Finance 8.75 per cent.

## Local authority town hall bonds

Fixed term, fixed rate investments, interest quoted gross (basic rate tax deducted at source reclaimable by non-taxpayers). 1 yr Neath 10 per cent. 2 yrs Kent 10 1/2 per cent. 3 yrs Neath 10 1/2 per cent. 4-5 Bournehead 10 1/2 per cent. 6-7 yrs Edinburgh 11 per cent. 8-10 yrs Northampton 11 per cent.

## Further details available from

Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy, Leamington (033 8361) between 10am and 2.30pm see also on Prestel no 24808.

## Building societies

Ordinary share accounts - 6.75 per cent. Extra interest accounts usually pay 1 per cent over the

## Last-minute presents to cheer the festive spirit

They say you can never have too much of a good thing and this is certainly true of fine wines which are always welcome gifts at this time of year. CONAL GREGORY has been looking at what is available, both for drinking now or for laying down.

The buoyant wine trade has encouraged merchants to make several special offers.

One of the best selections comes from Hawkins and Nurick (31F High Street, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6AH), independent merchant, with discounts on 10 cases and more. It offers Joseph Perre champagne per magnum of Cuvee Royal Brut at £14.96, two bottles of the same at £17.65, or on bottle of both the non-vintage Brut and 1979 with four glasses for £19.75.

Hawkins and Nurick also lists packs of Armagnac Lasserange, three star and VSOP, surely the most undervalued quality spirit of France. A speciality 1953 Pays d'Auge calvados from the House of Morice answers the problem of the wine and spirit lover who has practically everything. For Burgundy, it offers a three-bottle pack of chablis from two estates at £14.95.

Green's of 34 Royal Exchange, London, EC3V 3LP, has six varied cases.

The Vintner's Choice at £14.50 consists of four different grape varieties and can double as a guessing game over the festive season: Syrah 1981 from the Ardeche, Gamay 1981 from Beaujolais, Trimbach's Pinot Blanc 1979 from Alsace, and Colomard from the Cotes de Gascogne.

Berry Bros. and Rudd (3 St James's Street, London, SW1A 1EG) offers sampling cases, which are an excellent idea for the new wine investor. There are 10 on offer, such as the "commune" case: an opportunity to taste six of the best-known Bordeaux communes for

£37, drawn from 1975 to 1977 vintages including d'Angudet from Margaux and Beau Site 1975 from St Estephe.

The same firm offers a vintage claret mix, containing two bottles of six different 1974-78 vintages, for £46.50. The Berry Bros. and Rudd list recommends relative dates for maturity if the investor wishes to purchase case quantities of those most enjoyed. It will also cellar them at £2.07 per dozen bottles, rising on January 1st to £2.35, but take out additional insurance as this is included only to purchase value.

Probably the most extensive quality chain is Peter Dominic. Look for Graham 1975 vintage port at £9.10 and forward Delaforte 1970 at £11.45, both including VAT. Its champagnes should let in the new year well - either a "Buyer's Own Brand" like Lambert Extra Dry at £5.99, which is exceptional value, or a marquee, like Charles Heidsieck Rose 1979 at £9.89 for slight colour.

For a woody style to accompany game, try Vinicola Ribalonga's Dao at £2.19 from Dominic, part of Grand Metro-politan, Fontanafredda's Barolo

1980 at £3.45 or the unusual Chateau Musar 1977 at £4.99 from the Lebanon - a truly remarkable wine considering the production difficulties in that country.

If you like to make a combined wine and food selection, Ellis Son and Vidler (Cliffe Cellars, Cliffe Estate, South Street, Lewes, East Sussex BN8 6JL) offers "The Sublime Port" - a fine old tawny - with a stoneware jar of blue stilton for £14. Madeira, both the subject of a lovely book by Noel Cossart (Christie's, £15.90 hardback and £10.90 semi-glazed cover) and a fine winter wine, goes well with festive fare. A good selection is offered by Ellis Son and Vidler including Old East India at £5.59 for buying down and enjoying a decade hence.

Finally, do not forget several important new wine publications: *The Wines of Chablis*, by Rosemary George (Sotheby, £14.95), *Wines of the Rioja* by the Spanish expert, Jan Read (Sotheby, £15.95) and *French Fine Wines* by Steven Spurrier (Willow Books, £5.95). They will enhance any wine lover's library.

## BELHAVEN BREWERY GROUP plc

UNAUDITED HISTORICAL COST RESULTS  
% YEAR TO 30 SEPTEMBER 1984

|   | 1984  | 1983  |
|---|-------|-------|
| Turnover:   | £2K   | £2K   |
| Continuing operations   | 6,184 | 4,740 |
| Operations discontinued or sold                                 | 1,154 |       |
|   | 6,184 | 5,884 |
| Operating profit/(loss)   | 874   | 425   |
| Continuing operations   | (57)  | (57)  |
| Operations discontinued or sold                                 |       |       |
| Interest payable net  | 874   | 368   |
|   | (57)  | (22)  |
| Profit on ordinary activities before taxation                   | 817   | 346   |
| Tax on profit on ordinary activities                            | (248) | (25)  |
|   | 569   | 320   |
| Extraordinary income/(charges)                                  | 21    | (388) |
| Profit/(loss) for financial period attributable to shareholders | 590   | (68)  |
| Dividend  | (65)  |       |
|   | 504   | (68)  |
| Earnings per share  | 2.42p | 1.47p |

Extract from Chairman's Interim Statement  
The profit on ordinary activities before taxation for the half year under review of £317,000 is more than double that for the corresponding period of the previous year as well as double that for the whole of the last financial year. This was achieved by better housekeeping in all divisions as well as investment profits of £298,000. In view of the good progress of the Group to date, your directors are pleased to announce a resumption of dividend payments, declaring an interim dividend of 0.5p gross. The net amount of 0.35p per ordinary share will be paid on 15 January 1985 to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 31 December 1984. The hotels and holiday village part of the Group's business is seasonal and the major contribution comes in the first half. However, the second half of the financial year has started well.

why not try the

**9.88%**

Effective annual rate when half-yearly interest is added.

**9.65%**

Effective annual rate when half-yearly interest is paid out.

INTEREST RATE VARIABLE

MINIMUM INVESTMENT £1,000

share?

**IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWALS**

**NO LOSS OF INTEREST**

**TEACHERS'**

Please send investment details to: T22/12

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms).....

Address.....

Shares and deposits in the Society are Trustee Investments Members of the Building Societies' Association and Investors' Protection Scheme.

**MONTAGU**

LIMITED TRUST MANAGERS LTD

11 Devonshire Square EC2M 4TR Tel: 0224 4270

Daily Dealing Prices as at 21st December 1984

|                        | 1984 | 1983 | %    |
|------------------------|------|------|------|
| Gold & Precious Metals | 48.1 | 47.1 | +2.1 |
| Asian Equities         | 25.1 | 24.1 | +4.2 |
| Latin American         | 22.1 | 21.1 | +4.7 |
| US Equities            | 45.1 | 44.1 | +2.3 |
| UK Equities            | 45.1 | 44.1 | +2.3 |
| US Govt Bonds          | 45.1 | 44.1 | +2.3 |
| UK Govt Bonds          | 45.1 | 44.1 | +2.3 |
| US Spec Income         | 45.1 | 44.1 | +2.3 |
| UK Spec Income         | 45.1 | 44.1 | +2.3 |

**HARVARD**

RECORD PROFIT OF £1.25M

|                    | 1984    | 1983   | Increase |
|--------------------|---------|--------|----------|
| Turnover           | £37,165 | 29,369 | 27       |
| Pre-Tax profit     | 1,258   | 766    | 64       |
| Earnings per share | 4.05p   | 3.45p  | 17       |

Highlights from the Chairman's Statement  
"I am very pleased to welcome all new shareholders in Harvard Securities Group PLC. We have exceeded our profit estimate as stated in our prospectus of October 1984. I strongly believe that we are well placed to take full advantage of the 'renaissance' in the City and view the immediate future with confidence."

Tom Wilmet - Chairman and Managing Director

A copy of the full report and accounts is available from the Company Secretary, Harvard Securities Group PLC, Harvard House, 43-44 Dalmen Street, London SE1 0UQ. Telephone: 01-528 2108.

Harvard Securities - Market Makers for the Future

**Answers to the Money Quiz**

1. Life assurance premium relief which was abolished for all but the self-employed in the budget.
2. The halfpenny piece (worth 1.2 old pence for those that can remember).
3. They are both Ombudsmen. Mr James Haswell is the Insurance Ombudsman, while Mr Barrowclough is the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration.
4. Connaught Brown plc - the idea of the solicitor and art dealer Anthony Brown, aged 29.
5. The maximum rate of capital transfer tax payable on death, and the maximum tax relief available from BES investments, both dropped by this amount.
6. Dick Emery's widow disputed the provisions in his will which benefited his mistress. She had to contribute to the costs of the case because she had previously refused an offer of settlement, beneficial to the judge's ultimate decision.
7. All were tour operators which collapsed this year.
8. Alterations in the rules governing claims for students' travelling expenses were fiercely opposed by the National Union of Students.
9. The Government's loan guarantee scheme, whereby a certain percentage of the amount of a bank loan to a small business in guaranteed by the Government.
10. British Telecom shares which opened on the market at a premium of 43p on a 50p partly-paid share.
11. Ramada Inns: the perk is available to British investors as well and includes a free transfer to the best room available.
12. The 28th issue of National Savings Certificates, it prompted a deluge of investors to switch their building society money.
13. This was the value of the freehold of the building, already occupied by tenants, from ground rental income the £500 investment held out the hope of capital from lease renegotiations.
14. The clearing banks who will next
15. This could be the last £1 note to be printed.
16. Lorna Bourke, Family Money editor of *The Times*, who lost her card on a rocket ride at Utah State Fair.
17. Barclaycard. But the scheme does not cover travel agent failure.
18. The Abbey National Property Service was launched at the beginning of this year. Abbey borrowers could transfer their mortgage to buyers, and were entitled to a 10 per cent reduction in estate agents' normal commission charges.
19. Stamp duty, by exploiting a loophole in the Stamp Act whereby agreements for leases over 35 years from stamp duty. The loophole was closed in the Budget and arguments continue to rage as to whether it was valid in the first place.
20. The Town and Country Building Society, offered a pair of garden







## Sunday

## v-am

[illegible]

go to East  
defector

|       |  |  |
|-------|--|--|
|       | college fellows who<br>out the truth. Ends   | (Webber/McCabe)<br>"Irish" Symphony; Al<br>Pattie Suttie (Hoffm<br>coll. |
| 10.30 | Musé Weekly; Inscr<br>sonet.1  | Warrack on Schubert  |
| 11.15 | BBC Song) with Josep<br>(Soprano). Brittan's<br>Eliminations and Br<br>Symphony No 7.2 | Rymer; includes De<br>Bourgeois's Quintet<br>and "The Chameleon"         |
| 1.50  | Brittan (conducting);<br>Mozart's Symphony   |  |
| 2.30  | Elli Gilles; piano re<br>Prokofiev's Sonata<br>minor and Beethoven<br>B-flat Op 108.7  |  |
| 4.06  | Martin: Angelica Ma<br>Radio 4.2<br>Concerto No 2.1                                    |  |
| 4.45  | Three Violins and P<br>James Woodward, Ph<br>John Stobden                              |  |

**5.30 New Ph**  
**Stephan**  
**6.15 BBC Phil**

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| 7.40  | Liberty Comes to Kr<br>Johann Nestroy's co<br>translated by Sybil a<br>Welch. Cast includes<br>Waylon, John Hollis<br>Bateson (r.f.) |
| 9.00  | Faure and Francis M<br>(piano). Includes Fra<br>Prelude: Aria and Pli  |
| 9.45  | Utah SO: with Elmer<br>(violin). Includes Sib<br>Concerto; Dvorak's<br>D minor.  |
| 11.00 | Elly Ameling and Ru<br>Soprano and piano<br>works are by Schub<br>includes Abendbilder   |
| 11.57 | News. Until 12.00.   |

**KORKSCHIÉ**

**YORKSHIRE** Tree. 11.15 Day of a Bear Cub. 12.15pm Smurfs. 11.45 How Five Minutes, Closedown.

**BORDER** As London ex. 9.30am-10.01. Time. 11.00 A Christmas Car. Groovy Ghoulies. 11.45-12.15pm Smurfs. 11.45 Closedown.

**ANGLIA** As London ex. 11.00am Night. Talked. 11.30 Cartoon. 11.45 Nutcracker. 11.45 Return of 12.40am Christmas People.

**GRAMPIAN** As London ex. 10.00am. 10.30 Course of Briny

**Sales. 1.15-2.15**  
**ones at Knotts.**  
**Clarendon**

1. Classification

